

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Objection - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (MD-00011742 & MD-00011743)
Date: 07 May 2026 22:34:56

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.%20

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 %20An 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,%20

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 %20Our vision is for islanders to be empowered to shape their own priorities, build their futures, and protect what makes their communities unique.%20

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%20October). 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%20July), 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%20October 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 Mh%3r 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 was very lucky to have been left a house overlooking the sea in North Shawbost. The visual intrusion by the turbines will spoil the view. I am very concerned about the effect on residents mental health and impact on the seabed and wildlife.

I am not opposed to alternative forms of energy but they need to be smaller and less intrusive. Why not build a 20 turbine wind farm on the Barvas Moor, include a visitor centre, bike tracks and walking trails. Turn it into a real community and tourist attraction.

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.

[Yahoo Mail: Search, organise, conquer](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Licensing](#)
Subject: Objection to SPIORA NA MARA
Date: 07 May 2026 20:23:28

I actually do live on the Isle of Lewis and having considered the details of the project application within the EIA would find the impacts of the wind farm unbearable. I am not alone in this and want to inform Scottish ministers that far too many of my community will be similarly affected. This is counter to the definition of sustainable development in the Scottish Parliament Sustainable Development Impact Assessment SDIA Tool 2.3 which states that a project must meet the needs of all people in existing and future communities promptings personal wellbeing social cohesion and inclusion.

Yours

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#); [MD Marine Licensing](#)
Subject: MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - Isle of Lewis
Date: 07 May 2026 19:53:12

From [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Date 7 May 2026

I formally object to the above application.

Reasons.

1. Community Engagement has been flawed

a. The Scotwind scoping survey of 2018 for the SMP-OW did not feature human population effects except for effects on recreational water users. Therefore the only locations for offshore sites that would be considered would be ones which had no health or social effects on populations on land. The N4 area was not included.

Correspondence from Giulia Agnisola of MPP with Alasdair Allan MSP on 11 August 2022 (Marine Planning and Policy correspondence reference 202200311672), states that the N4 site was originally not in the scoping survey due to considerations around visual impact but was brought forward to the draft plan stage only after "views expressed after consultations with statutory bodies and key stakeholders". These bodies and stakeholders were explained by Drew Milne, Marine Planning Specialist (Offshore Renewable Energy), to be the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) and offshore wind construction companies. The local community was not engaged with.

The assertion by CnES that there was community support for sea based turbines within inshore waters is not evidence based and is spurious as there were no direct consultations with the Island Communities at this time.

Furthermore, Erica Knott of NatureScot stated that NatureScot was not consulted on the visual impact of N4 during the scoping survey time frame. As NatureScot is the body which advises on visual impact for Scottish Government, Erica Knott's statement is inconsistent with Marine Scotland's account.

b. The 2020 Government Consultation for the Scotwind and the N4 Plan Option was flawed, during consultation on Isle of Lewis there were 15 attendees only at the

daytime/evening event in Stornoway. Of the individual responses nationwide only 15 people objected strongly to N4. I know of 15 people on the road I live on who are strongly opposed to SNM.

The Consultation to the forthcoming Revised Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind shows what that public opinion is against SNM as half of all individual responses to the Plan objected to N4. Additionally an online survey of the residents of the West Side of Lewis by EMG-Lewis.co.uk which shows that 88% of residents are against the development.

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.' Clearly SNM does not fit with this vision.

Proper community engagement has been further disregarded as SNM does not fit with the Purpose and Vision Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind 2020.

The Purpose and Vision was stated as:

"This Plan seeks to contribute to the achievement of Scottish and UK energy and climate change policy objectives and targets, through the provision of a spatial strategy to inform the seabed leasing process for commercial offshore wind energy in Scottish waters, which; Minimises the potential adverse effects on other marine users, economic sectors and the environment resulting from further commercial-scale offshore wind development; and Maximises opportunities for economic development, investment and employment in Scotland, by identifying new opportunities for commercial scale offshore wind development, including deeper water wind technologies."

The clear omission of the minimisation of potential adverse effects on land based populations from the Purpose of the Draft Plan indicated that N4 should not have been included as a Draft Plan Option.

c. The Consultation response of CnES to the Draft SMP-OW 2020 was flawed.

The Comhairle's stated that:

"The local population is therefore prepared for, and supportive of, large scale deployment of Offshore Wind off Lewis".

This is a spurious statement in relation to N4 because it was based the responses from the community to the consultation event in Stornoway 5 March 2020, considered above, and also to community responses to a report for Members titled ScotWind Offshore Leasing Round, in December 2020. This is a pdf titled as I 9A and can be found at www.cne-siar.gov.uk John Cunningham, Strategy Manager with CnES, says this report was placed in the public domain and that “The characteristics and exact location of each draft Plan Option were detailed in the report papers”. However the only reference of the location of N4 was that it is closer to shore than the other Plan Options, which is vague. The map of the marine area surrounding Lewis which shows the local Plan Options is also given without a scale.

d. The designation of the capacity of the site has never been a subject of consultation. There are two options described for this offshore array. Both of them are contingent upon maximising the designated capacity of the site to output electricity. This capacity has been predetermined by an unseen and unexplained process which to my knowledge has not utilised any community consultation process. It is clear from the recommendations of NatureScot regarding N4 that it views this development similarly to ourselves but was unable to recommend against carrying N4 forward as a plan option OR reducing the capacity of the site to a more appropriate level given its proximity to shore. The recommendation to the developer to take opportunity to engage with the community on a design-led approach is essentially a lack of meaningful input on behalf of NatureScot as it does not address the critical issue of site capacity and is also presumptuous of the community finding any development of N4 as being acceptable. Again I refer to the SMP-OW 2020 consultation as having a null result as regards public engagement whereas subsequent data from the revised SMP-OW 2025 consultation and the online West Side survey of emg-lewis.co.uk show a huge proportion of the populace rejects the development

e. The failings of Northland Power in their community engagement

Grant Anderson, Project Manager with Northland Power, has made a blunt response when challenged, by myself at a public consultation event in 2023, about the recommendation from NatureScot for due consideration of turbines of height lower than 200m. He simply said “that says 'due consideration' so we don't have to do that”. This sums up Northland Power's (NP) approach which is to consider how they are constrained by official bodies, statutes and policy rather than engage meaningfully with the local community. Some further examples:

- I. At no stage during the four year pre-application public consultation phases, did NP quite a five year construction period for the offshore array.
- II. No targeted engagement with the community on the specific sensitivities of crofters was made.
- III. No targeted engagement with the community on the impacts on the historicity and spiritual life of community members was made.
- IV. The results of the EIA of the SMP-OW as regards N4 was referred to as "nothing to do with us" by representatives at community engagement events.
- V. Community engagement events were run at venues with no signage and where venue car parks were sometimes full of vehicles which had been parked by staff who were running the event.
- VI. Northland Power representatives have been vague and deceptive in their analyses of consultation responses , both first and second phase, through a lack of quantification of consultation responses from the community members. Denise Horan in particular is quoted as stating that "numbers of those objecting to the development have not been made available because it was not possible to compile such detailed statistics."
- VII. I have been very engaged with the events and paperwork of the public consultation process conducted since June 2023. There has been a dearth of engagement with the public on the subject of alternatives to this project development.

All the above is contrary to the following Government Policies.

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.'

In light of the above I request that the application be refused by Scottish Ministers.

2. Visual Impact:

The visual impact of this development will be on the residents, those who visit the area. This impact has unique aspects to it due to the combination of the sensitivity of the environment, the local culture including the indigenous population and the archaeological heritage of the area.

Reasons that Spiorad Na Mara would create too high a visual impact.

a. The Coastline here features machair. Council's own LDP which states: "There are key views along the coast and out to sea. It is very important that the scale, form and style of structures relates to traditional buildings, even if of a contemporary design, to retain the cohesiveness of settlements and the distinct character of the machair." SNM, though sited in the sea, clearly breaches this directive.

b. The setting of 24 scheduled monuments and many archaeological sites will be drastically altered by the development of SNM. Some of the types of archaeological sites and monuments that will be affected are listed by HES however there is no indication made of the richness of the heritage due to the density of sites along the coast here. Canmore.org shows that from Ness in the North to Great Bernera in the South, in the land corridor bordered by the shoreline and approximately 0.25 to 0.5 miles wide, there are 862 known historic and archaeological sites and 43 scheduled monuments. The trade and connectivity of the Neolithic cultures through to the Iron Age cultures in this area were contingent upon their maritime nature. The land/ocean setting of these sites is part of their identity and connectedness to their environment. The setting of Calanais would be turned into an industrial horizon. Sections of the community whose spiritual life incorporate the significance of these landscape and seascape relationships to archaeological sites in the locale will be affected by this development. This has not been addressed in the EIAR. Consenting this project would be counter to 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.'

c. NatureScot have stated "We advise that any scale of turbine will introduce widespread significant day and night-time effects on sensitive coastal, landscape and visual receptors." and have also requested that there is "opportunity to engage in design-led approach with council, SNH, MS and community" and "due consideration be given to turbine heights below the 200m height to mitigate significant effects." Northland Power have not shown they have considered turbine heights of this size and their reasoning for rejecting them.

3. Socio-economic Impacts

In the Sustainability Appraisal of the SMP-OW 2020, page 103, it is stated that "there may be some local unease over changes to landscapes and seascapes, and

perceived impacts on recreational opportunities that may have some distributional effects on specific groups within local communities.”

This is a hugely important statement and is an indicator of the magnitude of the mistake that Scottish

Ministers would be making should SNM be granted consent. Many of the inhabitants of this area have family lines that go back here for over a thousand years. The communities here comprise one of the last bastions of original Gaelic community-based culture in the world. They have the highest population density of native Gaelic speakers anywhere in Scotland. That there is a vague and inadequately researched acknowledgment that there may be “distributional” effects on specific groups” within these communities is revealing of an error of policy and implementation of large magnitude. Neither AMrine Scotland or the developer has undertaken a proper assessment of how the development may affect young Gaelic speaking families. I raise the question of now many such families may be discouraged to live in their ancestral home due to the development of SNM thereby weakening the local Gaelic culture immeasurably. Risking such an outcome is counter to policy declarations of Scottish Government as regards Gaelic culture. For example Scottish Government has a stated intention within the National Islands Plan to “Ensure that policies aim to retain and attract Gaelic speakers to live and work in Gaelic-speaking island communities.”

I emphasise here the inordinate impacts that the project plan has had and want to highlight that our communities are not absorbing these negative impacts in a docile way. Rather some people have already chosen to move away from the area due to the stress of the project plans and the prospect of its development. As well as this 88% of residents responding to an online survey have said they do not support the project. A community group has had to fulfil what the developer and Scottish Government has failed to do which is to meaningfully publish the community response to the N4 Scotwind Plan Option and SNM project plans, please see point 1.e.IV above.

In light of the above I respectfully request that the application be refused.

4. Ornithological Impacts

The EIAR fails to adequately address the collision and displacement risks for the following species which migrate through the array area of N4: Red Necked Phalarope (Red listed), Whooper Swan (Amber listed), Redwing (Amber listed), Teal (Amber listed) and Mallard Duck (Amber listed), Ringed Plover (Red list).

They all have a collision risk.

Redwing: Often descend to lower altitudes (below 100 metres) when approaching land or during poor weather.

Teal and Mallard Duck: They typically cruise at 60–150 metres.

Ringed Plover: They typically fly between 30 and 150 metres (100–500 ft) over land and sea.

Red-necked Phalarope: During migration, they often fly relatively low over water, typically 30–100 metres.

I demand that this application is refused consent unless such risk assessments are undertaken and consulted upon.

5. Noise Impacts

There is potential for infrasound produced from the operation of the turbine array to have an impact on land based populations. While the EIAR states that, according to a 2022 Government document, there is no evidence that such effects exist I would like to state the following:

It is known that large wind turbines create infrasound waves.

It is known that infrasound waves have been shown to have effects on human physiology both in vitro and in vivo (Research published in Scientific Reports and Noise & Health (2021–2023) and a 2022 review in Environmental Research)

No modelling has been published of the potential infrasound wave propagation and reinforcement for this turbine array or one of this magnitude.

No field measurement have been conducted for the infrasound wave propagation and reinforcement for a turbine array of this scale and location type.

Addressing the most recent published research on infrasound pollution, as it pertains to this project proposal, has been requested in scoping by the Barvas Estate Trust and the South Bragar Common Grazings Committee yet Despite that, the Applicant has expressly excluded from detailed assessment:

low frequency noise,
infrasound,
and amplitude modulation.

The EIAR relies upon data available up to 2022.

How this is relevant to this objection.

The developer has failed to model infrasound propagation and reinforcement for this specific array. Under ILGRA Stage 3, this constitutes a situation where 'scientific uncertainty... is such that risk cannot be assessed with sufficient confidence to inform decision-making'. The absence of a model is not proof of safety; it is proof of unassessed risk. Interdepartmental Liaison Group on Risk Assessment (ILGRA).

NPF4 Policy 1 and Policy 5 require the application of the precautionary principle. Where there is 'reasonable grounds for concern' about health impacts (Stage 1 of ILGRA) and the risk is 'unassessed' (Stage 3), the planning authority must not grant consent until the uncertainty is resolved. To approve this application without an infrasound model would be a direct violation of NPF4 Policy 5's requirement to 'avoid, mitigate, or manage' risks to health.

"The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAR) is incomplete. A valid EIA must assess all significant effects. By omitting the infrasound assessment, the developer has failed to provide the evidence base required for the Scottish Ministers to make a rational decision. Under the precautionary principle, the burden of proof lies with the developer to demonstrate safety, not with the community to prove harm.

The "Devastating Impact" Threshold (ILGRA Stage 2)

"The potential harm involves chronic health effects (sleep disturbance, vestibular issues) for a whole community. ILGRA Stage 2 notes that the principle applies to harms with 'potential for devastating impact' on a 'broad base of individuals'. The scale of Spiorad na Mara (900MW, 6-13km from shore) creates a risk of widespread, long term harm to the local population, satisfying the severity threshold.

I therefore demand that consent be refused or conditioned to require a full, site-specific infrasound propagation and reinforcement model before any construction begins.

Yours sincerely, *Signature:  *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: Formal objection to N4 / Spiorad na Mara planning
Date: 07 May 2026 17:43:40
Attachments: [JN-Formal-Objection-Letter-to-Spiorad-na-Mara-Offshore-Wind-Farm-N4.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find attached below my formal objection to the current N4 / Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm planning application in the Isle of Lewis.

Best wishes,

[REDACTED]

My address: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: 06 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 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.

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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 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.

From: [Redacted]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#); [MD Marine Licensing](#); [Econsents Admin](#)
Cc: [Redacted]

Subject: Formal Objection – Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743
Date: 07 May 2026 16:59:12
Attachments: [Formal Objection to Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm - \[Redacted\].pdf](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached my formal objection to the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and associated Marine Licence and Section 36 applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743.

I respectfully request that this objection is registered as a formal representation and placed before Scottish Ministers as part of the determination process.

The objection is based upon review of the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Planning Statement, Marine Licence supporting documentation and associated appendices.

My concerns relate not to renewable energy in principle, but to the scale, proximity, environmental uncertainty and cumulative impacts of this particular proposal upon the west coast of Lewis and surrounding island communities.

The attached submission raises concerns including:

- Failure to assess the full offshore and onshore project as one integrated development
- Significant seascape, landscape and visual impacts
- Effects upon cultural heritage and the Gaelic landscape
- Ecological uncertainty and Habitats Regulations concerns
- Potential impacts upon tourism, fisheries and community resilience
- Reliance upon deferred mitigation and post-consent controls
- Concerns regarding meaningful public participation and accessibility of the application process

I would be grateful if you could confirm receipt of this representation.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

FORMAL OBJECTION

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743

Document Reference	AH/SNM/OBJ/2026/01
Objector	[REDACTED]
Address	[REDACTED]
Residence Context	Resident of West Lewis
Email	[REDACTED]
Date	07/05/2026

Submitted as a formal representation requesting refusal of consent, or alternatively no determination until the further information and reassessments requested in this document have been provided.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document constitutes a formal objection to the proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm and associated Marine Licence and Section 36 applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743.

The objection is based upon detailed review of the applicant's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Planning Statement, Marine Licence supporting documentation and associated appendices.

I do not object to renewable energy in principle. My objection relates to this proposal, in this location, at this scale, and on the basis of the significant adverse effects, unresolved uncertainties and policy conflicts identified within the applicant's own assessment material.

The proposed development comprises turbines of unprecedented scale, reaching approximately 338 metres in height and located approximately 5-13 km offshore from the west coast of Lewis. Due to the scale and proximity of the development, the proposal cannot reasonably be compared with more distant offshore wind developments elsewhere.

In my view, the applications fail to demonstrate with sufficient certainty that the development can proceed without unacceptable adverse effects upon landscape, seascape, biodiversity, cultural heritage, fisheries, tourism, community wellbeing and island resilience.

The principal grounds of objection are summarised as follows:

- The offshore and onshore elements are being progressed through separate consent regimes despite forming one integrated development, preventing full assessment of cumulative and interconnected impacts.
- The proposal would industrialise a nationally important coastal and cultural landscape through turbines of unprecedented scale and proximity to shore.
- The applicant's own EIAR acknowledges potentially significant effects upon seascape, landscape, tourism, cultural heritage and visual receptors across extensive areas of Lewis.

- The proposal would adversely affect the setting, experience and cultural significance of heritage assets and the wider Gaelic cultural landscape, including the setting of the Callanish (Calanais) Standing Stones.
- The submission of a Habitats Regulations derogation case demonstrates unresolved ecological conflict and significant uncertainty regarding protected species and designated sites.
- The applications rely excessively upon future mitigation, post-consent controls and deferred assessment rather than demonstrating environmental acceptability at the point of determination.
- Important aspects of seabed disturbance, drilling, cable installation and geotechnical conditions remain unresolved, with key assessments relying upon proxy data and future surveys.
- The proposal would contribute to cumulative industrialisation across Lewis when considered alongside existing, consented and proposed renewable energy developments including Stornoway Wind Farm, Druim Leathann and Uisenis.
- The proposal risks long-term and potentially irreversible harm to tourism, dark skies, landscape character, fisheries, cultural identity and wider social sustainability within a fragile island community.
- The scale, complexity and volume of the application material raises legitimate concerns regarding meaningful public participation and accessibility of the consultation process.

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2	Habitats Regulations Derogation and Failure to Demonstrate Least Harmful Alternative
3	Incomplete Site-Specific Assessment and Deferred Design
4	Significant Seascape, Landscape and Visual Harm
5	Cultural Heritage, Gaelic Landscape and Community Identity
6	Biodiversity, Protected Species and Ecological Uncertainty
7	Tourism, Community Resilience and Cumulative Industrialisation
8	Human Health, Noise and Wellbeing
9	Over-Reliance on Future Mitigation and Post-Consent Control
10	Meaningful Public Participation and Accessibility of the Application
11	Planning Balance and Conclusion
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1. FAILURE TO ASSESS THE WHOLE PROJECT ADEQUATELY

The applicant confirms that separate applications are being made for the Offshore Project and the Onshore Transmission Works.

This represents a significant weakness within the assessment framework.

The offshore generating station, export cables, HDD works, landfall infrastructure and onshore transmission components are not independent developments in practical terms, but interdependent elements of one integrated project.

However, substantial aspects remain subject to separate applications, future refinement and later-stage assessment.

The applications confirm that:

- Final turbine positions are not fixed;
- Aspects of cable routing and HDD infrastructure remain unresolved;
- Further geotechnical investigations will occur post-consent;
- Additional mitigation and management plans are deferred until later stages.

This creates material uncertainty regarding the full cumulative effects of the project and risks piecemeal decision-making.

The environmental acceptability of the Offshore Project cannot properly be determined in isolation from the full impacts of the associated onshore infrastructure.

2. HABITATS REGULATIONS DEROGATION AND FAILURE TO DEMONSTRATE LEAST HARMFUL ALTERNATIVE

The submission of a Habitats Regulations derogation case is highly significant and should attract substantial weight within the determination process.

Such derogation mechanisms are exceptional and are only engaged where adverse effects on the integrity of protected European sites cannot be ruled out through ordinary Habitats Regulations assessment.

The existence of the derogation case therefore represents an acknowledgement within the applicant's own assessment that the proposal has the potential to adversely affect internationally important ecological interests and protected species.

In such circumstances, the precautionary principle should apply robustly.

The legal and policy framework governing derogation cases requires particularly careful consideration of alternatives and proportionality. However, the applications do not convincingly demonstrate that less harmful alternatives have been rigorously explored or discounted.

Given the exceptional scale of the proposed turbines and their unusually close proximity to shore, it is reasonable to expect particularly robust justification as to why alternative offshore siting options at greater distance from the coast would not represent a less environmentally harmful solution.

This includes:

- Alternative offshore locations;
- Increased distance from shore;
- Reduced turbine scale or density;
- Alternative layouts or configurations capable of reducing ecological and landscape impacts.

Given the unprecedented scale of the proposed turbines and their close proximity to an environmentally sensitive coastline, the applications fail to demonstrate why this specific configuration represents the least environmentally damaging option reasonably available.

This concern is heightened by acknowledged uncertainty surrounding:

- Collision risk modelling;
- Displacement effects;
- Cumulative ornithological impacts;
- Long-term population modelling;
- Protected species interactions.

Where uncertainty remains regarding internationally protected ecological interests, that uncertainty should not be resolved in favour of development.

3. INCOMPLETE SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT AND DEFERRED DESIGN

I object to the granting of Marine Licences on the basis that important site-specific information remains incomplete.

The supporting documentation confirms that:

- Drilling may be required for WTG and Offshore Substation Platform foundations;
- Horizontal Directional Drilling will be required at landfall;
- Extensive permanent deposits below Mean High Water Springs are proposed, including substantial quantities of steel, concrete, rock, gravel, concrete mattresses and cabling.

This represents a major industrial intervention within a sensitive marine environment.

Importantly, the applications acknowledge that sediment sampling was not undertaken at final turbine, transmission cable or HDD exit pit locations because final layouts remain unresolved.

The supporting documentation further confirms that much of the seabed was unsuitable for physical sampling due to hard substrates including rock, boulders and cobbles, with soft sediment data subsequently used as a proxy for wider seabed conditions.

For a development of this scale, this level of uncertainty is unacceptable.

Key impacts relating to:

- Foundation drilling;
- Sediment mobilisation;
- Contaminant release;
- Seabed disturbance;
- Cable protection;
- HDD works;
- Cumulative construction effects

These cannot be robustly assessed until final layouts and full geotechnical evidence are available.

The applications therefore rely excessively upon assumptions, proxy datasets and future post-consent assessment.

Environmental acceptability has not been demonstrated with sufficient certainty at the point of determination.

4. SIGNIFICANT SEASCAPE, LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL HARM

The proposed turbines would be among the largest offshore wind structures in the world and would be located unusually close to shore within an environment of exceptionally high landscape sensitivity.

The west coast of Lewis is characterised by:

- Open Atlantic horizons;
- Sparse built development;
- Dark skies;
- Strong inter-visibility between land and sea;
- A high degree of perceived naturalness and remoteness.

The proposal would fundamentally alter these defining characteristics.

The applicant's own EIAR includes extensive visual assessment material comprising 42 representative viewpoints and approximately 2.8 GB of photomontage and visualisation material across Appendix 18.6 alone.

The scale of this visual dataset itself demonstrates the extensive geographic influence of the development.

The proposal would affect:

- Settlements;
- Roads;
- Beaches;
- Tourism viewpoints;
- Heritage settings;
- Recreational areas;
- Residential amenity;
- Designated landscapes.

The applicant acknowledges potential effects upon the Special Landscape Qualities of the South Lewis, Harris and North Uist National Scenic Area.

The turbines would not appear as distant background features but as a dominant industrial presence across substantial parts of the western seascape.

The effects identified are not temporary or easily reversible, but would fundamentally alter the character and experience of the west coast of Lewis for at least the operational lifetime of the development and potentially beyond.

The impacts would also continue at night through aviation and navigation lighting, materially affecting the dark-sky qualities of the area.

Photomontages should not be treated as neutral evidence of acceptability. It is widely recognised within planning practice that such visualisations tend to under-represent the true scale and prominence of large infrastructure due to:

- Restricted field of view;
- Distance compression;
- Reduced depth perception;
- Idealised atmospheric conditions.

The actual lived visual experience is therefore likely to be materially more intrusive than represented within the applicant's visual material.

Taken together, the evidence demonstrates substantial and long-term industrialisation of the west coast seascape.

5. CULTURAL HERITAGE, GAELIC LANDSCAPE AND COMMUNITY IDENTITY

The west coast of Lewis is not merely a visual landscape but a living cultural environment closely connected to:

- Gaelic language;
- Crofting;
- Fishing;
- Oral tradition;
- Place-names;
- Archaeology;
- Religious observance;
- Community identity.

The proposal would introduce industrial-scale infrastructure into the setting of culturally significant landscapes and heritage assets for a minimum operational period of approximately 35 years.

The applications give insufficient weight to intangible cultural heritage and the relationship between communities and their coastal environment.

Particular concern arises regarding the setting and experiential value of heritage assets including the Callanish (Calanais) Standing Stones, where significance derives not only from the monument itself but from its relationship with an open Atlantic horizon and surrounding undeveloped landscape.

The applications also give insufficient consideration to the continuing importance of traditional community life and cultural rhythms within parts of Lewis.

The prospect of prolonged industrial construction activity extending across weekends and Sundays further contributes to concern that the proposal has not been adequately grounded in the social and cultural realities of the communities most directly affected.

6. BIODIVERSITY, PROTECTED SPECIES AND ECOLOGICAL UNCERTAINTY

The proposal raises substantial concerns regarding ornithology, marine mammals, fish ecology, benthic habitats and wider ecosystem integrity.

The applicant's own EIAR identifies multiple impact pathways including:

- Collision risk;
- Displacement;
- Barrier effects;
- Underwater and airborne noise;
- Habitat disturbance;
- Sediment mobilisation;
- Cumulative ecological pressure.

The assessment relies heavily upon linked modelling chains involving:

- Survey data;
- Abundance modelling;
- Collision risk modelling;
- Displacement assumptions;
- Population viability modelling.

Each stage introduces uncertainty.

Small variations in assumptions relating to avoidance rates, flight behaviour or displacement may materially alter predicted impacts.

Long-term population modelling extending over several decades inherently carries substantial uncertainty.

Particular concern arises regarding White-tailed Eagles.

Local observation and community knowledge indicate regular White-tailed Eagle activity within the Croir and Little Bernera coastal area, including repeated hunting behaviour along the coastline.

White-tailed Eagles are recognised as highly sensitive species within wind farm assessment and are known to utilise extensive coastal and marine foraging ranges extending well beyond nesting locations.

It is not clear that local ecological knowledge and observed behavioural patterns have been fully integrated into the assessment process.

Where internationally protected species and designated sites may be affected, uncertainty should not be resolved in favour of development.

7. TOURISM, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND CUMULATIVE INDUSTRIALISATION

Tourism forms a major component of the Western Isles economy and is fundamentally dependent upon landscape, seascape, cultural heritage and environmental quality.

The applicant's own socio-economic assessment acknowledges the importance of tourism and recognises that perceived changes to landscape and seascape character may influence visitor behaviour.

The west coast of Lewis derives economic value precisely from qualities of naturalness, remoteness and environmental integrity.

These qualities are central to both local wellbeing and long-term economic resilience.

The cumulative effects of the proposed development must also be considered alongside other existing, consented and proposed renewable energy developments across Lewis, including Stornoway Wind Farm, Druim Leathann and Uisenis, together with associated transmission infrastructure.

While each project may individually be assessed within separate applications, the combined effect is a progressive industrialisation of the island environment and erosion of the landscape qualities upon which tourism, environmental distinctiveness and community identity depend.

The cumulative impact upon residents is not experienced as isolated developments assessed within separate technical chapters, but as an interconnected pattern of industrial change affecting:

- Landscape character;
- Visual amenity;
- Dark skies;
- Ecological integrity;
- Community perception of place.

There is also concern regarding environmental justice and the growing concentration of industrial-scale infrastructure within particular rural and coastal communities.

The landscapes of west Lewis should not be regarded as expendable simply because they are geographically remote or sparsely populated.

Their environmental, cultural and community value is fundamental to the identity and long-term sustainability of the islands as a whole.

8. HUMAN HEALTH, NOISE AND WELLBEING

The Offshore Airborne Noise assessment confirms that there is currently no offshore-specific legislative framework governing offshore airborne noise and therefore relies upon onshore guidance including ETSU-R-97.

This creates material uncertainty regarding the adequacy of the assessment methodology for a quiet island environment characterised by low baseline noise levels and high receptor sensitivity.

The Human Health chapter acknowledges that health and wellbeing may be affected through:

- Noise;
- Visual change;
- Environmental disturbance;
- Socio-economic effects;
- Amenity loss;
- Stress and anxiety.

I suffer from tinnitus and hyperacusis, making me particularly sensitive to tonal, repetitive and low-frequency sound disturbance.

Recent research into large-scale wind turbine infrasound suggests that conventional A-weighted assessment methods may not fully capture low-frequency propagation characteristics or amplitude-modulated effects associated with modern turbine designs.

While scientific understanding continues to evolve, there is increasing scientific discussion regarding the potential for low-frequency disturbance to contribute to sleep disruption, stress and reduced wellbeing, particularly within quiet rural environments.

The local population also includes a significant elderly demographic and other vulnerable residents.

Given the acknowledged uncertainty surrounding long-term exposure effects, the precautionary principle should apply.

9. OVER-RELIANCE ON FUTURE MITIGATION AND POST-CONSENT CONTROL

The EIAR relies heavily upon:

- Future mitigation plans;
- Management plans;
- Monitoring;
- Post-consent controls;
- Embedded mitigation assumptions.

Many important matters are deferred until after consent.

This approach does not provide sufficient certainty at the point of determination.

A consent decision should not rely upon assumptions that unresolved issues will subsequently be controlled through future plans or licensing conditions.

The decision-maker must be satisfied now that the proposal is environmentally acceptable.

The applications fail to demonstrate this with sufficient certainty.

10. MEANINGFUL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY OF THE APPLICATION

The scale, complexity and volume of the application material raises legitimate concerns regarding the effectiveness of public participation within the consultation process.

The Environmental Impact Assessment and supporting documentation comprise many thousands of pages of highly technical material developed over a period of several years with access to specialist consultants, modelling tools and legal expertise.

By contrast, local communities have been afforded a comparatively limited period within which to review, understand and respond to a complex and evolving proposal of exceptional scale.

This issue is particularly significant within geographically dispersed island communities characterised by:

- Limited access to specialist planning or environmental expertise;
- An ageing population;
- Varying levels of digital accessibility;
- Finite community capacity to engage with highly technical documentation.

The extensive volume of material submitted — including large visual datasets, extensive appendices and interrelated technical assessments — creates a risk that significant impacts become obscured within the complexity of the documentation rather than clearly understood by affected communities.

The applicant's own consultation material acknowledges extensive engagement activity over multiple years. However, meaningful public participation requires more than the procedural availability of information. It requires that affected communities are provided with a genuinely accessible and proportionate opportunity to understand the likely consequences of development proposals of this scale and duration.

This concern is reinforced by the timing of the consultation period alongside wider national election activity, which may reasonably have reduced public awareness and engagement capacity within affected communities.

In the context of a proposal with potentially irreversible effects upon landscape, environment, cultural heritage and community character extending over several decades, the effectiveness and accessibility of the consultation process should attract substantial weight within the determination process.

11. PLANNING BALANCE AND CONCLUSION

While the proposal may contribute toward national renewable energy targets, national policy support for renewable energy does not create a presumption in favour of development irrespective of environmental consequence.

In this case, the scale, proximity, uncertainty and cumulative effects of the proposal give rise to substantial and long-term adverse impacts which have not been shown to be outweighed by the asserted public benefits of the development.

These concerns engage the requirements of National Planning Framework 4, including Policy 4 (Natural Places), Policy 7 (Historic Assets and Places), Policy 14 (Design, Quality and Place) and Policy 23 (Health and Safety), together with the wider objectives of Scotland's National Marine Plan and National Islands Plan.

The applications fail to demonstrate with sufficient certainty that the proposal can proceed without unacceptable effects upon:

- Landscape and seascape character;
- Cultural heritage and Gaelic landscape;
- Biodiversity and protected species;
- Tourism and fisheries;
- Community wellbeing and island resilience.

The effects identified are not temporary or easily reversible, but would fundamentally alter the character and experience of the west coast of Lewis for at least the operational lifetime of the development and potentially beyond.

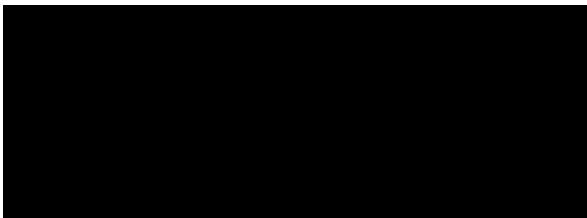
Unlike many forms of development, the transformation of seascape character, dark-sky conditions and community perception associated with infrastructure of this scale may not be readily reversible even following eventual decommissioning.

For the reasons set out above, it is respectfully submitted that applications MD-00011742 and MD-00011743 fail to satisfy the requirements of the applicable planning, marine and environmental assessment framework and should therefore be refused.

If consent is not refused outright, no determination should be made until:

1. the offshore and onshore elements are assessed together as one integrated project;
2. final turbine layouts and infrastructure details are fixed;
3. full site-specific geotechnical and sediment evidence is provided;
4. cumulative effects are reassessed;
5. further meaningful consultation is undertaken with affected west Lewis communities.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of the person.A black rectangular box redacting the name of the person.

APPENDIX A - EIAR AND PLANNING DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES

Document / Material	Relevance
Planning Statement	Policy balance, consenting framework and planning justification
Marine Licence Application - Generation Supporting Document	Permanent deposits, drilling, sediment sampling, geotechnical uncertainty
Marine Licence Application - Transmission Supporting Document	Cable infrastructure, HDD works, permanent deposits and deferred geotechnical analysis
Chapter 3 - Project Description	Scale, layout envelope, turbine parameters and project components
Chapter 6 - Alternatives	Alternative siting, scale, design and layout considerations
Chapter 18 - Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment	Visual effects, landscape character, viewpoints and designated landscapes
Appendix 18.6 - SLVIA Photomontages and Visualisations	Viewpoint material, wireframes, photomontages and visual evidence base
Ornithology Chapter and Appendices	Collision risk, displacement, abundance modelling and population viability assessment
Commercial Fisheries Chapter	Fishing access, displacement, gear conflict and fisheries impacts
Offshore Airborne Noise Chapter	Noise assessment, receptor sensitivity and reliance upon onshore standards
Human Health Chapter	Health and wellbeing pathways, vulnerable receptors and community effects
Chapter 24 - Residual Effects	Effects remaining after mitigation
Chapter 25 - Mitigation and Monitoring	Future commitments, management plans and post-consent controls

APPENDIX B - RELEVANT POLICY FRAMEWORK

- National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), including policies relating to biodiversity, historic assets, energy infrastructure, health, amenity and sustainable tourism.
- Scotland's National Marine Plan, including GEN 18 on early and effective engagement and provisions relating to marine historic environment, biodiversity, seascape and sustainable use.
- National Islands Plan, including principles relating to community empowerment, island resilience and protection of distinctive island communities.
- Habitats Regulations framework, including Appropriate Assessment, adverse effects on site integrity, derogation, alternatives, IROPI and compensatory measures.
- Marine licensing and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements concerning cumulative effects, residual effects, mitigation and reasonable alternatives.

APPENDIX C - COMMUNITY AND LOCAL CONTEXT

This objection is submitted by [Redacted], a resident of West Lewis, with direct experience of the local environment, landscape character and coastal setting affected by the proposed development.

Local observation and community knowledge indicate regular White-tailed Eagle activity within the Croir and Little Bernera coastal area, including repeated hunting behaviour along the coastline.

The west coast of Lewis is also a culturally distinctive area in which Gaelic language, coastal place-names, crofting, fishing, religious observance, dark skies, tourism, archaeology and community identity remain closely interconnected.

A recent community survey has reported substantial local opposition to the development. While such material is not a substitute for statutory consultation, it provides relevant context regarding local sentiment and community acceptance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SUPPORTING REFERENCES

- Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Volume 1 and Volume 2 chapters and appendices.
- Spiorad na Mara Marine Licence Application Form - Generation Supporting Document, February 2026.
- Spiorad na Mara Marine Licence Application Form - Transmission Supporting Document, February 2026.
- Spiorad na Mara Chapter 18 Seascape, Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment and Appendix 18.6 Photomontage Visualisations.
- Spiorad na Mara Ornithology Assessment, Collision Risk Model, Displacement Assessment and Population Viability Assessment appendices.
- Spiorad na Mara Commercial Fisheries, Human Health, Offshore Airborne Noise, Residual Effects and Mitigation chapters.
- Scotland's National Marine Plan.
- National Planning Framework 4.
- National Islands Plan.
- Habitats Regulations and associated Scottish Government / NatureScot guidance on Appropriate Assessment, derogation and protected species.
- Community Opinion Survey materials published by Environmental Management Group Lewis.
- Relevant published research and guidance concerning wind farm noise, low-frequency sound, visual assessment, photomontage interpretation, White-tailed Eagle sensitivity and offshore wind cumulative effects.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [MD Marine Renewables](#)
Subject: Spoid Na Mara / N4 objection
Date: 07 May 2026 16:50:28
Importance: High

[REDACTED]

I refer to the application to build the Spoirad Na Mara / N4 windfarm in the sea off the Isle of Lewis. I hereby lodge my formal objection to this application.

It beggars belief how many planning policies and guidance this application contravenes.

Community Engagement - Lack of . NO CONSULTATIONS were undertaken with the communities in west Lewis prior to Crown Estate Scotland identifying and leasing the N4 area for development. Did Crown Estate Scotland consider community engagement to be unnecessary? Their actions indicate inappropriate assumptions to say the least. It is utterly unacceptable to impose this plan without consent. This contravenes Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) . GEN 18 clearly states '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.'

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. 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.

Cultural Significance - Lack of understanding and interest evident : 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.'

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.'. These appear to be empty words!

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). Dear God. Who in heavens name thinks that's acceptable?

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 1,500m 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 of these species are 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." It is an utter disgrace that this application was brought forward on this point alone.

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.

Utter failure and disregard in the protection of 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 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: i 'significant adverse impacts on the integrity of the setting of a scheduled monument are avoided; or ii 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.'

My further objection points:

The long term future cannot be replaced or reinstated or mitigated once altered at this scale. Ditto the character of a landscape and community. The Hebrides are a unique and special environment which need to be carefully protected. Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm would cause significant, cumulative and irreversible harm to the land, seascape, heritage and economy of the islands. It would harm the lives of the people and nature. This damage cannot be wished away, it cannot be mitigated against. The conflicts with the Development Plan, biodiversity policy and NPF4 are real. The harms to protected seabirds, marine life and humans are real.

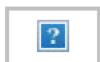
The local "Council" claim there is much support for this application. They DO NOT speak for local people, nor do they represent anyone who loves the islands or nature. They dismiss local and other concerns and objections in a disgraceful dereliction to the natural environment and human health and well-being. They seem to care not about nature and protecting the environment. They are careless of the impact on the local economy. As the owner of a (continuously operating since 2009) small business in Isle of Harris who speaks to every single person who books a stay in my house, and some who do not, I am absolutely certain that this development will have a devastating effect on tourism. My experience is demonstrably real, do any of those in the "Council" claiming to speak for others have more?

The development would have an enormous and unacceptable effect on nature and also on local life.

It flies in the face of multiple planning rules and guidelines and is heinous in it's size and planned implementation. My experience of local feeling is that it is not supported in Lewis nor in Harris or by the wider world. Visitors come to the isles to experience the wildness, nature, darkness, beauty and to have some time away from the pace and industrialised landscapes they often have to live with day in, day out. The number of places where dark skies can be experienced are vanishingly few now. They are a wonderful thing and should not be underestimated. This would be destroyed by this development. So the question is - does Scotland value what it says it does or does it pay lip service by writing meaningless words it then ignores?

Cui bono.

Regards



Virus-free www.avg.com

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: 4/ May /26

MD-00011742 & MD-00011743 - Spiorad na Mara Limited - Spiorad na Mara 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'.

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My further objection points:

OPPOSED

THIS IS NOT FOR THE

ILES of Lewis -

POOR DECISIONS

lack of island understanding

ZERO - ASSISTANCE FOR ISLANDS

NOT - OUR VIEW - NO CHEAP POWER

Build it the other side of the

SKIPPING LANE.

NO POWER STATION.

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.

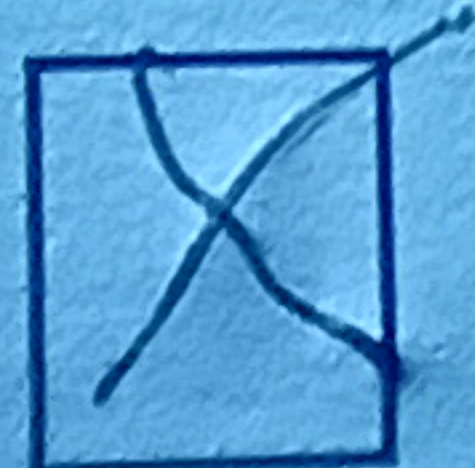
Yours sincerely,

Signature:

Print name



To edit this document in Word, scan this QR code



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