Section 5H: Method Statement

The GI is the first step in the process to determine and agree the potential location for a replacement ferry terminal. The GI boreholes will provide geotechnical information on the seabed necessary for the design of the new ferry terminal. The GI will be located within the area of the proposed replacement ferry terminal, directly to the north of the existing pier.

The GI will be undertaken from a jack-up barge and comprise drilling of 21 no. rotary drilled boreholes approximately 200 mm in diameter to a maximum depth of 20 m below seabed level. Each borehole sample will be approximately 0.65 m^3 in volume. The programme for the GI identifies that the works will be undertaken continuously over a 28-day period, with approximately four hours is required per borehole. The GI is anticipated to take place between March 2024 and June 2024, once required licenses are in place. All plant and equipment would have regular maintenance checks to ensure they are working efficiently and generating as little noise as possible.

The GI would be undertaken in a 28-day programme. Whilst works would be continuous over this period, the modular jack-up barge from which works would be undertaken would need to be manoeuvred around the site when moving between borehole locations, which would create natural quiet 'down-time' periods (approximately 4 hours per borehole). The methods proposed for the GI are considered to be those that would result in the lowest practical noise levels. The GI would not generate any impulsive sound or high emission noise, for example through percussive methods, and rotary drilling is considered to be the quietest borehole drilling method that achieves the required GI outcomes from the bedrock conditions within the site.

Section 6: Removals

The purpose of the Ground Investigation is to obtain sufficient geotechnical data to inform the proposed design and/or location and/or construction methodologies of a replacement ferry terminal at Craignure.

Therefore, it is not possible to know prior to the GI the exact types of removal nor the quantities or dimensions of each type. However, the GI will comprise the rotary drilling of 21 boreholes, with up to 0.65m^3 of material removed from the seabed per borehole. The total volume of removed material would therefore be up to 13.65m^3. The seabed material removed is anticipated to be a mixture of silt, sand, gravel, clay and intact rock of variable proportions, up to 0.65 m^3 per borehole.