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EAST LAMMERMUIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Morven Offshore Windfarm Limited

Electricity Act 1989

Marine & Coastal Access Act 2009

The Electricity Act (EIA)(Scotland) Regulations 2017

The Marine Works (EIA) Regulations 2007

The Electricity Applications for Consent Regulations 1990

Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

Submission from East Lammermuir Community Council

East Lammermuir Community Council notes that Morven Offshore Windfarm Ltd have applied to Scottish Ministers for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act and Marine Licences under section 65 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

We note that the Morven Site will be progressed as two separate developments: Morven North and Morven South. This separation is primarily driven by the requirement for flexibility due to ongoing uncertainty around grid connection dates for the two distinct grid connection Points of Connection (POC), the Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection Project (hereafter referred to as "MBAGC Project") in East Lothian and the Morven Hawthorn Pit Grid Connection Project (hereafter referred to as 'MHPGC Project') in County Durham. To align with the respective grid connection arrangements, MHPGC in County Durham will be consented through a marine licence and a Development Consent Order (DCO), while MBAGC in East Lothian will proceed via both marine licence and planning application (under the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 for the onshore works) with a separate EIA Report to be produced for these applications. The potential cumulative effects of Morven North with these applications will be assessed within this Morven North EIA Report as far as possible and practicable.

Insofar as the onshore works described as "near Torness" are likely to fall within the East Lammermuir Community Council area, this community council wishes to register its concern that those onshore works will significantly impact on this place, in terms of construction impact and visual impact, as well as cumulative impact with other necessary infrastructure such as converter stations, substations, and attendant developments which may arise from these. These developments will have significant impact on the amenity of local residents, on biodiversity, and on carbon emissions.

Until such time as the final scope and content of any EIA, and its impact within East Lammermuir are made more clear with respect to the Morven Branxton Area Grid Connection Project, we cannot make more detailed comment. However, we wish to ensure that we are included in any further deliberations regarding these onshore works in particular.

The grounds for this representation include

- The likelihood that the grid connection "near Torness" will fall within East Lammermuir
- The current development of the Branxton Substation, Eastern Green Link 1, Berwick Bank onshore works, and assorted other projects within the same geographical area as MBAGC
- The cumulative impact of those existing works, consented works, and this MBAGC must be assessed together.

Please confirm that we will be included in deliberations from this point forward, as we see this as essential to the implementation of NPF4.

As a broader point, we wish to suggest that in the light of the Raeshaw ruling, the proposed Morven wind farm and the grid connection should be treated as forming a single project. As the various elements have different consenting authorities, the **consenting processes should be carried out in parallel** so that one part is not consented before the others. This will avoid the situation where the grid connection and associated works are a fait accompli, as has happened repeatedly with onshore developments in East Lammermuir to date.

Chris Bruce

Chair East Lammermuir Community Council

15 July 2026

ISLE OF MUCK PROPERTY OWNING PARTNERSHIP

Benjamin Taylor

From: colin macewen [Redacted]
Sent: 16 July 2026 19:52
To: MD Marine Renewables
Subject: Morven Offshore Wind Farms - Isle of Muck

Date: Thursday 16 July 2026

To: Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team

Subject: Re: Morven Offshore Wind Farm – Isle of Muck Habitat Restoration and Compensatory Measures

Dear Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team,

As the land manager and an owner of the island, the **Isle of Muck Property Owning Partnership** is writing to express our formal support for the Morven Offshore Wind Farm proposals, specifically the implementation of the compensatory habitat restoration measures on our land.

As stewards of the Isle of Muck, we recognise that major offshore renewable energy developments must be balanced with robust, meaningful environmental enhancement. We firmly believe that the proposed eradication of invasive and non-native mammals (brown rats on Muck) represents an opportunity to restore and safeguard the island's ecosystem. This initiative will protect our important breeding seabird populations while delivering long-term ecological stability.

The presence of brown rats is impacting the island's biodiversity. Their persistent predation of eggs and chicks remains a primary driver behind the decline of key species on our cliffs and coastlines, including guillemots, razorbills, and puffins. Removing this apex invasive predator would be one of the most significant and transformative conservation management actions executed on the island in decades.

From a land management perspective, the Isle of Muck is uniquely suited to a successful eradication programme. We wholehearted support this proposal based on the following operational and ecological realities:

- **Proven Conservation Frameworks:** Island rat eradications across Scotland and globally have consistently delivered outstanding results. As landowners, we support the application of these proven, evidence-based conservation methods on our property.
- **Long-Term Ecological & Land Stewardship:** This project secures the environmental legacy of the island for generations. Removing the threat of predation will rapidly improve the breeding success of struggling populations of guillemots, razorbills, puffins, as well as wider populations of coastal seabirds. Furthermore, it will also benefit a wide range of ground-nesting terrestrial birds, creating a healthier, more resilient island ecosystem.
- **Feasibility and Operational Delivery:** Muck's distinct geography, manageable scale, and accessible terrain make it a prime candidate for a highly controlled, professional eradication programme. We support the appointment of experienced specialist contractors and are fully committed to facilitating land access, providing local logistical insights, and collaborating on the strict, long-term biosecurity protocols required to keep the island rat-free.

- **Estate and Socio-Economic Enhancements:** Beyond the immense ecological value, eliminating the rat population directly improves the island's infrastructure, agricultural environment, and the daily lives of residents. It will also significantly bolster Muck's position as a sustainable wildlife tourism destination, safeguarding the natural heritage that draws visitors to the Small Isles.

The Isle of Muck Property Owning Partnership has been actively engaged throughout the consultation process. We have maintained a transparent, productive dialogue with both the Morven Offshore Wind Farm team and Habitat Assessment and Restoration Ltd (HAR). We have been thoroughly impressed by their scientific rigor, professional communication, and respect for local land management considerations. They have given us complete confidence that this project is meticulously planned, safe, and entirely viable.

We highly value the collaborative approach taken by the developers, ensuring that our practical knowledge of the island's terrain and operations will be been integrated into the strategy from the outset.

In conclusion, the Isle of Muck Property Owning Partnership grants its full support to this habitat restoration project. It represents a definitive, once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore our seabird colonies and enhance the island's biodiversity. We respectfully urge the Marine Directorate to look favourably upon these proposed compensatory measures during the Morven Offshore Wind Farm consenting process.

We look forward to working closely with the Morven project team and HAR to successfully deliver this vital conservation milestone.

Yours sincerely,

Colin MacEwen

For and on behalf of the Isle of Muck Property Owning Partnership

Gallanach

Isle of Muck

By Mallaig

Inverness-shire

PH41 2RP

Tel: [Redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

ISLE OF MUCK COMMUNITY

Benjamin Taylor

From: Muck Community Enterprise <muckcommunityenterprise@gmail.com>
Sent: 13 July 2026 10:39
To: MD Marine Renewables
Subject: Re: Morven Offshore Wind Farm

Dear Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team,

Re: Morven Offshore Wind Farm – Isle of Muck Community Representation

On behalf of the Isle of Muck Community Enterprise Ltd (Registered Charity No. SC020510), we are writing to express the Isle of Muck Community's unequivocal support for the Morven Offshore Wind Farm and, in particular, the proposed compensatory habitat restoration measures on the Isle of Muck.

The Community recognises the importance of ensuring that offshore renewable energy developments are accompanied by meaningful environmental enhancement measures. We firmly believe that the proposed eradication of invasive and non-native mammal predators (in this case brown rats) from the island presents a unique and significant opportunity to restore and safeguard Muck's internationally important breeding seabird populations while delivering lasting ecological and community benefits.

Brown rats have had a well-documented and continuing impact on the island's breeding seabirds through the predation of eggs and chicks. They are considered to be a major factor contributing to the decline of species such as guillemots, razorbills and puffins, as demonstrated by the accompanying population data. Their removal would represent one of the most significant conservation measures undertaken on the island in recent decades.

Table 4.9: Seabird counts for Muck. Count units indicated

Species	1986 Dobson & Dobson (1986)	2001 Mitchell *et al.* 2004	2018 Burnell *et al.* 2023	2021 Inger *et al.* 2022	2025 This report
Guillemot (Ind.)	1,073	397	420	319	179
Razorbill (Ind.)	246	136	40	51	32
Puffin (Ind.)	254	111	50	19	22
Kittiwake (AON)	140	67	24	4	11

Reference – Morven North Offshore Wind Array Project. Habitat Regulations Appraisal. May 2026

The Isle of Muck is particularly well suited to a successful eradication programme, and the Community wholeheartedly supports the proposal for the following reasons:

- **Proven conservation success:** Rat eradication programmes have delivered outstanding conservation outcomes on islands throughout Scotland and internationally, resulting in substantial increases in breeding seabird populations. The Community strongly supports the application of these proven conservation methods on Muck.
- **Long-term ecological benefits:** The project would provide enduring environmental benefits for generations to come. It is expected to improve breeding success for guillemots, razorbills, puffins and as well as other coastal seabirds, including petrels, terns and gulls, by removing a major source of egg and chick predation. Evidence from comparable projects

demonstrates that breeding success can improve rapidly, with positive results often evident from the first breeding season following eradication. It is also expected other ground nesting bird populations would also benefit.

- **Excellent prospects for successful delivery:** Muck's relatively small size, favourable terrain and accessibility make it an ideal candidate for a professionally managed eradication programme. The Community fully supports the appointment of experienced specialist contractors and is committed to working collaboratively to ensure both the successful delivery of the project and the long-term maintenance of robust biosecurity measures.
- **Benefits for the wider community:** In addition to its significant ecological value, the project would improve the quality of life for residents by removing the impacts associated with brown rats. It would also enhance Muck's reputation as a destination for wildlife tourism. Many of our visitors come specifically to experience the island's exceptional natural environment, particularly during the Easter to September visitor season. The anticipated recovery of seabird populations would strengthen the island's appeal and contribute positively to the wider natural heritage of the Small Isles.

The Isle of Muck Community has been fully engaged throughout the development of this proposal, attending public engagement events and presentations and maintaining an active dialogue with the project team. We have been consistently impressed by the professionalism, openness and quality of communication demonstrated by both the Morven Offshore Wind Farm team and Habitat Assessment and Restoration Ltd (HAR). Their scientific approach, thorough research and commitment to meaningful community engagement have provided confidence that this project is both well designed and achievable.

The Community also welcomes the collaborative approach that has been taken throughout the development of the proposal, ensuring that local knowledge and community perspectives have been recognised and incorporated wherever possible.

In conclusion the Isle of Muck Community offer their full support for this important habitat restoration project. We believe it represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to restore Muck's seabird populations, enhance the island's biodiversity, and leave a lasting environmental legacy that will benefit both wildlife and future generations.

We respectfully ask the Marine Directorate to give full consideration to the strength of community support for these proposed compensatory measures as part of the Morven Offshore Wind Farm consent process.

We look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Morven Offshore Wind Farm team, Habitat Assessment and Restoration Ltd, and their appointed contractors to deliver this important conservation initiative.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Mathers
Director
Isle of Muck Community Enterprise Ltd

On behalf of the Isle of Muck Community