

Angus Gillies

From: Patrick Hughes [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 September 2022 13:27
To: Angus Gillies
Subject: RE: Acairsaid Harbour - Replacement Structure

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Feasgar math, Aonghais,

Sound of Barra SCI

The proposal as you have noted lies within the Sound of Barra SCI designated for its reefs, subtidal sandbanks and harbour seal population. Further information on the qualifying features can be found here:

<https://sitelink.nature.scot/site/8602>

We advise that the proposal will have a likely significant effect on the SCI for reefs and harbour seals but that it will not have an adverse effect on site integrity.

We do not hold any detailed surveys of this location but broadscale biotope mapping of the site shows that there is reef and mud habitats located around the proposed works. Mud is not a qualifying feature and need no further consideration. Any reef habitat below the pier is likely to be of lesser quality due to shading effects of the existing pier and as the proposed concrete pier will cover the same footprint which is very small in extent. Considering this we advise that the proposal will not compromise any of the conservation objectives for the site for reef or subtidal sandbank.

There are records of harbour seals hauled out on the southern shore of Acairseid Mhòr directly opposite the harbour. If they are present during piling works it is likely to cause disturbance. We advise that piling does not take places during sensitive moulting and pupping periods, if seals are present. Harbour seals pup during May and June and moult between July and September.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

If you need any further information please let me know,

Deagh Dhùrachd,

Patrick

Patrick Hughes | Operations officer, Outer Hebrides

NatureScot | Stilligarry, South Uist, Western Isles, HS8 5RS | [REDACTED]

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From: Angus Gillies [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 September 2022 13:12
To: Patrick Hughes [REDACTED]
Subject: Acairsaid Harbour - Replacement Structure

Hi Patrick,

Looking for your thoughts on this project located Acairsaid Harbour, Eriskay, South Uist.

Following recent inspection we have assessed the existing timber pier to be in poor condition and in need of urgent replacement. Proposed replacement structure shall be located on the site of the existing structure with extension of the deck area to accommodate a landing platform for re-alignment of the existing pontoon system.

Attach general arrangement and layout of the proposal.

Preliminary investigation shows the harbour pier to be within the area of a SCI from your site maps. Given that the proposed works will require demolition of the existing structure and piling to bed level for pier supports, the works will be somewhat invasive and may cause some disturbance to the marine environment. What would your requirements be in relation to this project.

Currently submitting preliminary application to planning and marine Scotland for their assessment.

Regards

Aonghas MacGilloosa (Angus M Gillies), BEng., MSc., CEng., MICE
Innleadair Drochaid agus Togailichean (Bridges and Structures Engineer) |
Rathaidean, Drochhaidean agus Solais (Roads, Bridges and Street Lighting)
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Thoiribh an aire airson adhbharan gnothaich, 's dòcha gun tèid sùil a chumail air puist-dealain a' tighinn a-steach agus a' dol a- mach bho NàdarAlba.
