

T: +44 (0)300 244 5046
E: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

Application for a Basking shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) licence for one of the following purposes

- Preserving public health or public safety
- Preventing the spread of disease
- Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.
- Social, economic or environmental purpose

Important: Before completing this form, please read these notes carefully

Please complete all relevant sections of the form.

Please ensure that you answer questions fully in order to avoid delays.

The completed application should be sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot.

We will not process unsigned application forms.

Please ensure that you supply any necessary supporting information e.g. detailed method statements, risk assessments etc.

MD-LOT will aim to determine whether a licence should be issued within 6 to 8 weeks of acceptance of a completed application.

If you experience any problems filling in this form, please contact MD-LOT.

Please use this application form if you wish to undertake works/activities that would affect Basking sharks in the inshore marine area (0 – 12 nautical miles).

Do not use this form if your application relates to scientific, research, conservation or educational purposes. Please contact NatureScot, email licensing@nature.scot, Telephone 01463 725364 or visit the [NatureScot website](#) for a licence application for these purposes.

Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg Marine licence).

It is the responsibility of the applicant to obtain any other consents or authorisations that may be required.

Part A

Section 1 Personal details

Please provide details of the individual, company or partnership you wish to be named on the licence. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and its conditions. Failure to carry out the work proposed in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose the licensee to criminal liability.

Section 2 Previous applications

Please provide details of any previous relevant licences.

Part B

Section 3

Location

Describe the location of the proposed works. Include a list of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) of the boundary points of the proposed project. WGS84 is the World Geodetic System 1984 and the reference co-ordinate system used for marine licence applications. Co-ordinates taken from GPS equipment should be set to WGS84. Coordinates taken from recent admiralty charts will be on a WGS84 compatible datum. Ordnance survey maps do not use WGS84. In a few cases, (e.g. laying of long pipelines) it may only be practicable to supply co-ordinates for the start and end points.

Example: For positions read from charts the format should be as in the example: 55°55.555'N 002°22.222'W (WGS84). The decimal point specifies that decimals of minutes are used and the datum is stated explicitly. If seconds are used then the format should be as in the example: 55°55'44"N 2°22'11"W (WGS84).

It is important that the correct positions, in the correct format, are included with this application, as any errors will result in the application being refused or delayed.

Section 4 Consideration of designated sites

Please provide details of any designated sites affected by your proposals. You are advised to consult Scottish Natural Heritage, or other appropriate regulator, if the work you propose to do affects a European site, an MPA or a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Section 5 Activities to be licensed

Please indicate the activities you intend to undertake that would otherwise be unlawful. Provide details of the proposed commencement and completion dates of the activities. The licence start date will not be backdated, since to commence a project for which a licence has not been obtained may constitute an offence resulting in appropriate legal action.

It is the licensee's responsibility to apply for any further licences or an extension prior to the expiry of the initial licence.

Section 6 Purpose of the licence application

Please indicate the purpose of the licence application as described in the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Part 1, Section 16 (3).

Section 7 Satisfactory alternatives

Please provide your consideration of why there is no satisfactory alternative. This must include the other options that have been evaluated, the alternative sites that were considered by you and why they were rejected (if no other sites were considered, you must provide the reasons why), or alternative methods of carrying out the work and alternative dates / timings. The 'do nothing' alternative must also be considered.

In relation to each alternative considered, please provide an explanation of why you consider it to be satisfactory or unsatisfactory. In respect of any alternative sites please provide the location(s) and details of the alternative site(s), or your views on how the activity/proposal might have been achieved differently, and any other helpful information; e.g., pros and cons of alternative sites, or whether there is likely to be demand for all suitable sites to be used to meet an identified need. Please explain how this conclusion was reached.

Section 8 Summary of the planning / licensing position

Detail all consents and licences required for the proposed project and indicate those that you have applied for or received.

Section 9 Noise Monitoring

Under the Marine Strategy Regulations (2010), there is now a requirement to monitor loud, low to mid frequency (10Hz to 10kHz) impulsive noise. This includes use of seismic airguns, other geophysical surveys (<10kHz), pile driving, explosives and certain acoustic deterrent devices. This monitoring requires completion of a form at the application stage (giving details of the proposed work) as well as completion of a 'close-out' form (giving details of the actual dates and locations where the activities occurred). The close-out form should be returned within 12 weeks of completing the 'noisy' activity or, in the case of prolonged activities such as piling for harbour construction or wind farms, at quarterly intervals or after each phase of foundation installation. These forms are available on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Section 10 Scotland's National Marine Plan

Scotland's National Marine Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EU Directive 2014/89/EU, which came into force in July 2014. The Directive introduces a framework for maritime spatial planning and aims to promote the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. It also sets out a number of minimum requirements all of which have been addressed in this plan. In doing so, and in accordance with article 5(3) of the Directive, the Marine Directorate has considered a wide range of sectoral uses and activities and have determined how these different objectives are reflected and weighted in the marine plan. Land-sea interactions have also been taken into account as part of the marine planning process. Any applicant for a marine licence should consider their proposals with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan. A copy of Scotland's National Marine Plan can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#).

Indicate whether you have considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan and provide details of considerations made with reference to the policies, including but not limited to General Policy13 (GEN 13), that have been considered. If you have not considered the project with reference to Scotland's National Marine Plan please provide an explanation.

Section 11 Privacy notice

This section briefly describes the Scottish Ministers' responsibilities in relation to Data Protection based on the requirements the data protection laws and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Part D

Section 12 Declaration and warning

It is important to read the Declaration and Warning sections before signing the application form.

Site visits and compliance checks

It is possible that the licensing authority may undertake a site visit prior to the issue of a licence. The majority of site visits will be arranged several days in advance and will be conducted in the presence of the licensee (or applicant) however there may be occasions when a site visit will be made at short notice.

Licensees should be aware that they may receive a request for a site visit by the licensing authority, or a person authorised by the licensing authority, to assess site conditions against the conditions of the licence. It is essential that if any of the agreed mitigation measures contained in the method statement are changed for any reason, the licensing authority is informed as soon as possible.

The Licensing authority will monitor compliance with licences issued based on the information included in licence returns.

Where to seek further information

Further information can be obtained from Licensing Operations Team at the address below.

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

Tel: 0300 244 5046
Email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

Part A. The Applicant: Personal details

These questions relate to the person who will be the named licensee. The licence can be issued to an individual or a company or a partnership and the licensee will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence and the conditions of the licence. Under the The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability.

1. Name of applicant

Title: [Redacted] Forename(s): [Redacted] Surname: [Redacted]

Company Name: Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL)

Business Title (if Appropriate): Senior Civil Engineer

Address: Municipal Buildings, Fore St, Port Glasgow, PA14 5EQ

Tel no. (incl dialling code): [Redacted]

Email address: [Redacted]

2. The Applicant: Previous applications:

Have you previously held a wildlife licence issued in the UK? (please tick as appropriate)

Yes No (If yes, please complete below, if no, please go to Part B)

Who issued the licence? Scottish Government

Licence number (most recent licence) EPS-00010384

Year in which the licence was issued. 2024

What species were covered by the licence? Harbour porpoise (Phocoena phocoena);bottlenose dolphin (Tursiops truncatus);minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata)

What activity was covered by the licence e.g. disturb, injure? Disturb

Part B. The Application

3 Species

(a) How many individuals will be affected by licensed work? This must be the maximum number of animals that could be affected prior to any mitigation measures being applied.

1

(b) Please provide a description of how this number was calculated / estimated

For basking shark , localised vessel disturbance/injury (strike risk) has been estimated from <https://marinescotland.atkinsgeospatial.com/nmpi/> which indicates densities of up to 0.1 per km2 but in the local zone one individual has been sighted at Lochboisdale in 2024 (<https://www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk/recent sightings/>[accessed February 2024]) therefore a precautionary value of disturbance/injury to 1 basking shark individual has been estimated.

(c) **Location of proposed licensed action**

Latitude and Longitude co-ordinates (WGS84) defining the extent of the project. Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Latitude										Longitude										
5	7	°		8	.	9	0	2	'N			7	°	1	7	.	9	4	0	'W
5	7	°		8	.	8	9	1	'N			7	°	1	7	.	9	5	5	'W
5	7	°		8	.	6	6	4	'N			7	°	1	7	.	9	0	4	'W
5	7	°		8	.	6	8	6	'N			7	°	1	7	.	2	9	5	'W
5	7	°		8	.	8	7	5	'N			7	°	1	7	.	3	2	3	'W
		°			.				'N				°			.				'W
		°			.				'N				°			.				'W
		°			.				'N				°			.				'W

- (d) Provide a brief description of the proposed activity and the methods to be used.
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information
Please provide details of the source levels and frequencies of underwater noise if relevant

CMAL requires the undertaking of marine-based ground investigations and geophysical surveys to gather information that will allow for development of future design stages of a replacement berth and ferry terminal of the Gasay Ferry terminal, South Uist.
The activities considered to require an EPS licence are:
- Bathymetric / Acoustic Survey (deployed from vessel)
- Side Scan Sonar Survey (deployed from vessel)
- Sub-bottom Profiling Survey (deployed from vessel)
- Magnetometer Survey (deployed from vessel)
- Cable Percussive exploratory hole with Rotary Core follow-on (deployed from jack-up rig)
- Vibro Core exploratory hole (deployed from jack-up rig)

Underwater noise levels (for information):
The exact equipment used will be the responsibility of the Contractor, however typical equipment for the geophysical surveys are a multibeam echosounder operating at frequencies of 170-450kHz, an acoustic boomer operating at 2-25kHz with peaks levels of 215dB re 1uPa @1m at 200J and a parametric sub-bottom profiler operating at 2-115kHz with peaks levels of 238dB re 1uPa @1m. A Cable Percussive rig, Rotary Core and Vibro Core are likely to operate between 27 Hz and 1 kHz with peak levels of 132-192dB re 1uPa (it should be noted that these values are in absence of underwater values and are based on a vibrodriver/hammer worst case 8" diameter impact pile).

It should be noted that whilst the duration of the works is expected to be approximately 5 weeks, the timing may be dependant on when the licence is received. If a licence is received in Autumn/Winter 2025, the contractor may opt to postpone until more favourable weather in Spring 2026; therefore we would request a licence which is valid until Spring 2026.

- (e) Briefly state how you will minimise the impact of your proposed work on Basking shark.
Detailed information should be included in your supporting information.

The main risk to basking shark is from vessel strike (i.e., physical disturbance/injury) rather than from underwater noise. JNCC Guidelines for the prevention of injury or harm to marine mammals will be followed, specifically in relation to the presence of a marine mammal observer (MMO) for the duration of the geophysical surveys and ground investigation works. The MMO will also alert the vessel's captain and crew to the presence of basking sharks to allow the vessel to avoid coming into contact with individuals.

4. Consideration of designated sites

Designated Areas: National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Area (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Ramsar sites, Marine Protected Areas (MPA). Information on designated sites is available on [NatureScot's website](#).

- (a) Will any part of the proposed activity fall within /or adjacent to an area covered by a designated site eg SSSI, SAC, MPA? Yes No

- (b) Please give the name of the designated site(s) and either the outcome of your consultations or the reason why you have not consulted. Please enclose any relevant correspondence.

The nearest designated sites are >5km away.

5. Activities to be Licenced

Proposed Methods

(a) Please complete all relevant columns in the table below to indicate the methods you propose to use, the activity involved and the time period in which you propose to use each method. This information will be used when preparing the licence to cover activities that would otherwise be unlawful, and failure to give full details may result in an inappropriate licence being issued.

Disturb	Kill	Take / trap	Damage or destroy place of shelter / protection	Method	From	To
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vessel movements	August 2025	31st May 2026
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

6. Purposes of the licence application (tick one box only)

Please indicate which purpose relates to the proposed works. The options shown are taken from The Wildlife and Contryside Act 1981.

(a) Preserving public health or public safety (we will require evidence that there is a risk to public health or public safety e.g. an imminent risk of flooding) (Section 16 (3) (f))

Complete Annex A

(b) Preventing the spread of disease (Section 16 (3) (g))

Complete Annex B

(c) Preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries.(Section 16 (3) (h))

Complete Annex C

(d) Social, economic or environmental purpose (Section 16 (3) (i))

Complete Annex D

7. Satisfactory alternatives

Please explain why there is no satisfactory alternative to carrying out the proposed work affecting the species. You must describe all possible alternatives which were considered and why they were considered unsuitable. You must also consider the option of not undertaking the work. It is not acceptable to state that 'there is no alternative'.

There is a requirement to undertake marine-based ground investigations and geophysical surveys to gather information that will allow for development of future design stages of a replacement berth and ferry terminal.

The existing Gasay Ferry Terminal infrastructure is coming to the end of its useful life. Maintenance works were undertaken in 2021/22, which were limited to keeping the infrastructure operational for another five years. There is limited capacity to extend or improve the berth to accommodate larger vessels, as well as there being a limited marshalling area onshore which impacts on traffic on adjacent roads, and limited ability to deepen the berth for larger vessels. In 2024, a detailed structural inspection and assessment was carried out, the results of which led to further restrictions on vessel approach and speed, as well as vehicle loadings due to the condition of the infrastructure. It also noted regular inspections are required in order to determine if the infrastructure's condition remains suitable to maintain operations.

The ferry service between Lochboisdale and Mallaig provides a much-needed link between the Scottish mainland and the Outer Hebrides. Whilst there are alternative routes, each involves additional travel time by road and/or inter-island ferries. The local economy is reliant on the tourism trade and the ability for services and goods to pass through the ferry terminal.

There are plans for a new vessel to replace the existing ferry which provides the service between Lochboisdale and Mallaig and it will primarily be designed based on service route requirements and future demand forecasting. Whilst the new vessel will be of similar size to the current vessel, others that may use the new infrastructure in the future will be larger and heavier and the infrastructure as well as being life limited, will not be capable of accommodating these vessels unless replaced.

In order to design structurally safe and robust replacement infrastructure it is necessary to understand the geotechnical and geo-environmental constraints in the area along with their potential impact on the designs. The proposed surveys and investigations are the most reliable methods of gathering information on these constraints and have been designed to be temporary and localised in nature, ensuring the information required to progress the design is captured at this early stage.

As set out above, there are a number of techniques proposed for both the intrusive GI Works and the geophysical surveys, with the latter proposed over a larger area to ensure baseline seabed conditions have been covered. Alternative methods of capturing the data required are discussed below and set out why the methods proposed are considered the most appropriate.

The alternatives to geophysical surveys include carrying out significantly more intrusive ground investigations to understand the variability in the depth / strength of the material beneath the proposed site, or utilising divers and / or Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to capture information about the seabed. Both of these alternative methods would prolong the time that vessels would be working in the area, therefore increasing the potential for impacts to marine species in the area. Increased quantum of intrusive ground investigations would have the potential to result in increased underwater noise and vibration over a larger area than that proposed, which has been designed to provide the minimum level of information required to inform future design works. Further to this, the health and safety implications of having personnel in the water means that using divers would be not considered appropriate in this case. Utilising divers and / or ROVs would also capture inadequately detailed information due to potential sea state and visibility of the seabed; elements of the proposed geophysical survey (i.e. Sub-Bottom Profiling) cannot be captured by a visual assessment alone.

The level of detail required to inform future design work cannot rely solely on geophysical surveys to provide design parameters and any non-intrusive survey work needs to be validated through intrusive investigation, sampling, and testing.

In terms of the methodologies for forming the exploratory holes, other methods available are sonic drilling or Static Compaction Penetration Tests (SCPTs), however neither of these methods are considered appropriate in this case. This is due to either requiring a resonance of the casing in the case of the sonic boreholes, or being unlikely to penetrate the superficial deposits expected and not able to confirm rock parameters in the case of the SCPT. As a consequence, it is considered that sonic drilling could result in greater potential impacts to cetaceans than the methods proposed as it would result in a prolonged resonance, and SCPTs would not provide the detail required of the ground investigations.

8. Other licences / consents

Please detail below all licences / consents you have applied for or received. Before a licence can be granted, it is essential that other relevant licences or consents have been secured for the proposed activity (eg marine licence).

Type of licence / consent (e.g. marine licence, local planing authority, local works licence)	Date applied for	Reference no.	Date of issue of consent
Marine Construction Licence	June 2025		

9. Noise Monitoring

Please indicate if any of the following noise generating activities will be taking place during the operations:

Use of explosives Piling Use of acoustic deterrent devices
Survey equipment operating in the range 10 Hz – 10kHz

If you have ticked any of the above boxes please complete a proposed activity form on the [Marine Noise Registry website](#).

Please note the form must only be completed once for each activity. If you have already completed a form for this activity (eg through the marine licensing process) please give details.

See EPS Licence for Gasay Ferry Terminal (harbour porpoise).

Licence applications will not be accepted until this form has been completed and submitted.

10. Scotland's National Marine Plan

Provide details of considerations made with reference to the relevant policies that have been considered.

It is anticipated that there would be no significant effects on seascape, landscape or visual receptors during the ground investigations and geophysical surveys which will be temporary and localised in nature. The proposal is therefore considered to be compliant with Policy GEN 7.

In terms of complying with legal requirements for protected areas and protected species, the investigations and surveys will not result in significant impact on the national status of Priority Marine Features or areas. An ecological summary report has been produced which concludes no significant residual impacts on ecological features. This is following implementation of proposed mitigation measures which include adherence to environmental management plans including an Environmental Action Plan (EAP) or similar. The Basking shark licence conditions would be adhered to. Therefore the proposal is considered to be compliant with Policy GEN 9. No significant effect on coastal waters is anticipated during the proposed activities. Impacts during the investigations and surveys are temporary and are not anticipated to result in

11. Privacy notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT) has a range of statutory responsibilities including determining applications for licences to disturb or injure marine European protected species (EPS) under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and The Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Basking shark licences under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

MD-LOT will, where necessary, process personal information including: names, addresses, email addresses and telephone numbers to determine a licence application. Personal information will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record.

A full privacy notice can be found on the [Scottish Government website](#). If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MD-LOT at: Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB. Email: MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Have you remembered to enclose supporting information with your application, as described in the accompanying guidance? Please check

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Completed application form | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Completed annex | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Map / chart | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Correct co-ordinates | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Supporting information / risk assessment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Part C. Declarations

12. I have read and understand the guidance provided in this application form. I declare that the particulars given are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I apply for a licence in accordance with these particulars.

I authorise employees or representatives of the Scottish Ministers to enter the site which is subject to this application for the purpose of monitoring and inspecting the permitted works.

Warning

Under the THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended) failure to carry out the work which you propose in accordance with the terms of the licence may expose you to criminal liability. The licensee is responsible for ensuring compliance with the licence.

The Scottish Ministers can modify or revoke a licence at any time, provided there are good reasons. Any licence that may be issued is likely to be revoked immediately if it is discovered that false information was provided and resulted in the issue of a licence.

Under the **THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 (as amended)**, any person who in order to obtain a licence knowingly or recklessly makes a statement or representation, or furnishes a document or information which is false in a material particular, shall be guilty of an offence and may be liable to criminal prosecution. Any person found guilty of such offences is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5,000), or to both imprisonment and a fine.

Note: Previous convictions for wildlife offences will be taken into account and in some cases may mean that the Scottish Ministers do not consider it appropriate to grant a licence.

[Redacted]
Signature of the
Applicant

ate **09/07/25**

(The person named at part 1)

Name in block letters [Redacted]

Note – If signing on behalf of a company, please append your signature with “on behalf of company name”.

The completed application should be signed and sent to Marine Directorate Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) at the address below or emailed to MD.MarineLicensing@gov.scot

Please remember to include all supporting information.

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

Disclaimer

While every effort has been made to ensure the information contained in this document is accurate, nothing in this document should be taken to replace the current legislation in force at this time. You are advised to obtain qualified legal advice in relation to your rights and responsibilities under the 1981 Act and other legislation.

Annex A

Only to be completed if you selected for preserving public health or public safety in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

Give details of the risk to public health or safety

How has the risk been identified? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity address the identified risk?

Annex B

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing the spread of disease in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What disease(s) is / are at risk of being spread if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent the spread of disease? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex C

Only to be completed if you selected for preventing serious damage to livestock, foodstuffs for livestock, crops, vegetables, fruit, growing timber or any other form of property, or to fisheries in question 6 of the application form.

Please complete all questions

What serious damage has occurred or will occur if the proposed activity does not go ahead? Please give details of any expert advice received.

How will the proposed activity prevent serious damage? Please give details of any expert advice received.

Annex D

Only to be completed if you selected for a social, economic or environmental purpose in question 6 of the application form

Please complete all questions

What benefits will be provided by the proposed activity? Give details and indicate if they are social, economic or environmental. Please indicate if the benefits are short or long term.

The Ground Investigation will feed into the detailed design of the replacement for the current ferry terminal which is at the end of its useful life. The replacement terminal will provide economic and social benefits in the long term, as it will result in the ferry service from Lochboisdale to the Scottish Mainland being maintained, with some potential improvement in the reliability of the service too. Without a replacement, the ferry terminal would need to be closed due to its condition, potentially within the next five years. There will also be environmental benefit as maintaining a local ferry terminal will negate the need to travel further afield to other ferry terminals within the Outer Hebrides. The new terminal will also be providing charging facilities for the future hybrid diesel/electric ferries which will have a positive environmental benefit.

What public interest will be served? Who will benefit from the proposed activity? Does the proposed activity address a need?

It is in the public interest to provide a replacement ferry terminal due to the condition of the existing structure, with respect to safety and the ongoing provision of a ferry service to the Scottish mainland. The local community of South Uist and wider community of the adjacent islands will benefit as maintaining a terminal on South Uist will negate the need to travel further afield to other ferry terminals within the Outer Hebrides.

Why is it imperative the proposed activity goes ahead?

It is imperative that the ground investigation work goes ahead to provide the data required to undertake the detailed design of the new ferry infrastructure.

Does the proposed activity support any local regional or national policies? Please give details. Are you fulfilling a statutory role?

The Ground Investigation feeds into the design of the new ferry infrastructure, which supports regional and national policies with respect to the Scottish Government's Islands Connectivity Plan 2023 – 2045 and National Transport Strategy (NTS2, Feb 2020). It also meets the policy of the local authority (Comhairle nan Eilean Siar) with respect to their Local Development Plan, with respect to the development site.