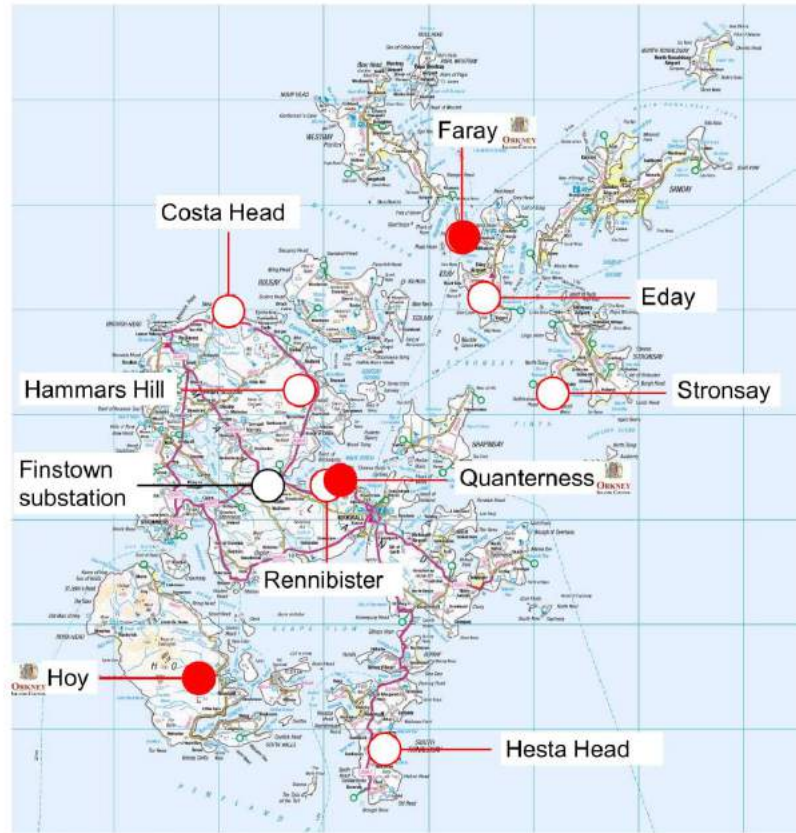


What is Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project?

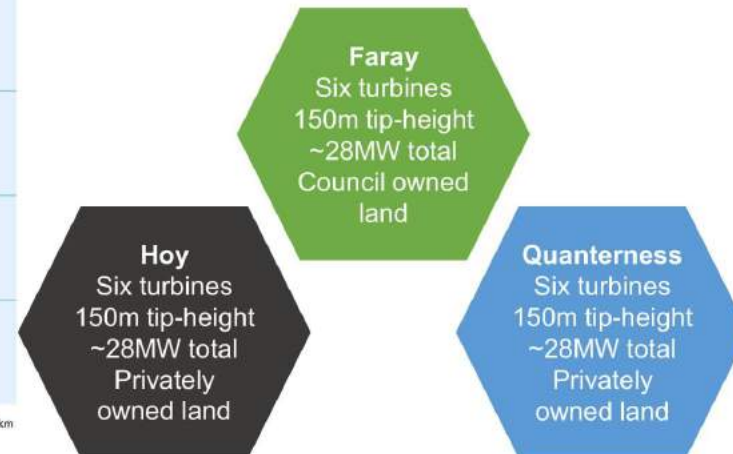


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○ Wind Farms under investigation

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

- The project is seeking to develop wind farms in Orkney with the aim of:
 - ✓ Generating income from publicly owned wind energy projects to support services for local communities.
 - ✓ Supporting the Needs Case for a new cable for Orkney to open up wider economic development opportunities for the energy industry, including marine energy.
 - ✓ Ensuring that the local benefits from a new cable are maximised.
 - ✓ Making the most of our resources.
- Development activity is being funded from the Council's Strategic Reserve Fund.
- Three sites are under consideration.



What are the benefits for Orkney?

Income and community benefits



Council-owned wind farms would have the potential to **generate a significant income every year** helping us tackle the twin challenges of budget reductions and an increasing demand for public services.



As well as creating jobs through development, build, and operation, **all profit would stay in Orkney**. This money could be spent to:

- **Preserve and enhance Orkney services** like social care, education, roads and transport.
- Deliver a **community benefit scheme**.

How would the community benefit scheme be structured?

The Council has now agreed a set of guiding principles for community benefit. These are:

- **The key purpose of Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project is to generate profit to be used for the benefit of the people of Orkney.**
- This will be done via a 'Community Fund' to be used **in the interests of Orkney and its inhabitants**.
- The project will be financed in such a way that we can achieve profit which can be used for community benefit **as soon as reasonably practicable**.
- It won't be possible for private individuals to take a shareholding in any project.
- As the communities located closest to projects will be impacted most by developments these communities will get a '**location-specific community benefit payment**'. We'll be consulting separately on this.



What are the benefits for Orkney?

Securing a new cable



OFGEM has now conditionally approved SSEN proposals to build a 220MW interconnector linking Orkney with the Scottish mainland. Approval is dependent on **at least 135 MW** of new wind farm projects in Orkney either being awarded a Contract for Difference (CfD) or **being judged 'likely to be developed' by December 2021**.



'**Likely to be developed**' means that the project should;

- be financially viable
- have signed a relevant grid connection agreement
- have planning permission



By developing these wind farms we can join other local developers in **meeting these requirements** giving Orkney more chance of getting the cable and all the benefits it will bring.

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Creating a carbon neutral future



In our Council Plan we have a target outcome for, "A vibrant **carbon neutral** economy which supports local businesses and stimulates investment in all our communities" and in May 2019 we joined organisations around the world in declaring a **climate emergency**.



The targets Orkney can contribute to are:

- Net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in **Scotland** by 2045.
- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions in **the UK** by 2050.
- To meet these targets, emissions from **homes, transport, farming and industry** will have to be addressed.



Orkney produced 120% of its electricity needs in 2017/18, but there is still so much more we can do to **decarbonise** our agriculture, heating, and transport.

Why have we chosen these particular sites?

■ Constraints

- ✓ There are limited options for wind farm development sites in Orkney due to the spread of houses and designated areas for wildlife.
- ✓ Some of the feasible sites are being developed by private companies.

■ Timing

- ✓ We looked for sites that had realistic potential of reaching planning determination by the end of 2020 – we now have until 2021.

■ Scale

- ✓ We need enough Orkney projects to trigger the cable.
- ✓ We need wind farms that are big enough to be financially viable under a low/zero subsidy environment.

Hoy

This area was originally chosen as the largest area away from homes and designated sites with the potential for 100MW. Initial scoping and bird surveys have shown that the site could more realistically offer ~28MW.

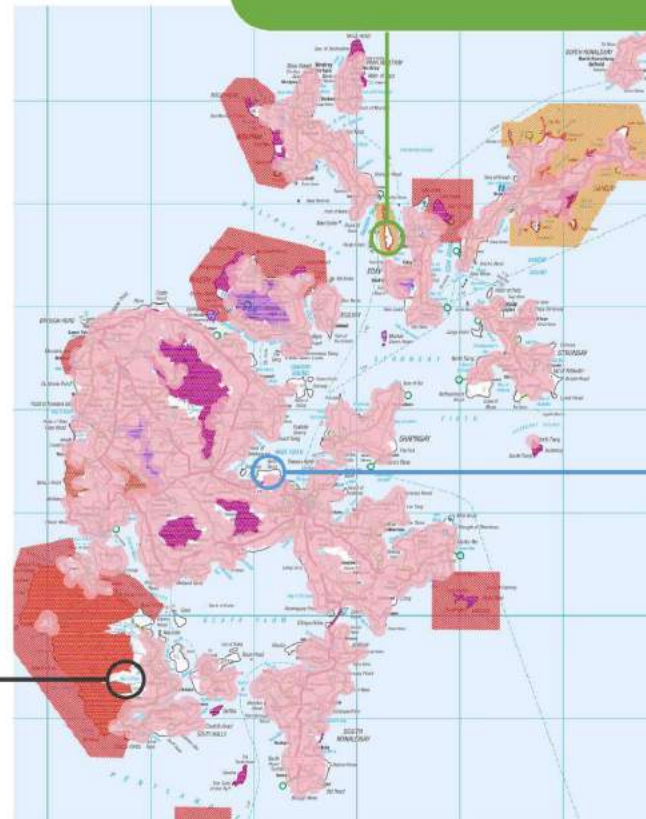
Faray

This uninhabited island was bought by the Council in January 2019 for its strategic development potential. It is probable that only one year of survey work will be required.

Quanterness

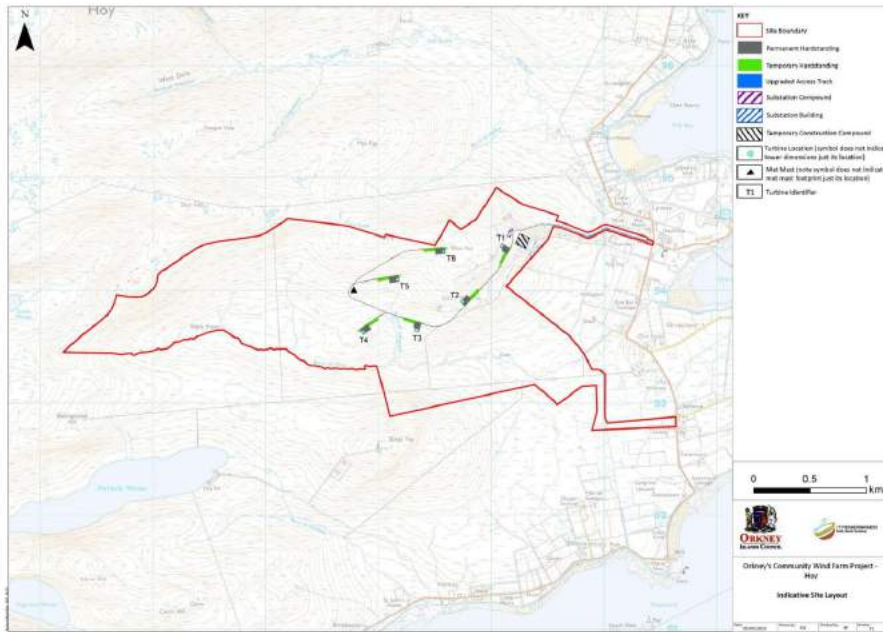
This site has practical advantages and requires less survey work than other sites because it is the least ecologically sensitive.

Because Quanterness is close to Kirkwall, it could also enable a separate project in which the Council could directly supply electricity to its own buildings as a means to reduce costs.



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What will be included on the site?



Wind farm components



- ✓ Six turbines of up to 149.9m tip height.
- ✓ Permanent hardstandings for putting up and maintaining the turbines.
- ✓ An onsite substation and maintenance building.
- ✓ Permanent met mast.
- ✓ Underground cables between the turbines

Construction components



- ✓ A temporary compound for machinery and material storage during the construction period.
- ✓ Temporary laydown areas next to the turbines for use during construction.
- ✓ Potential excavations/borrow workings.

Access



- ✓ Components would be delivered to Lyness and then transported along the B9048. It is anticipated that loads would then cross the B9047 and join the unclassified track heading west to site.
- ✓ Upgrades to existing access and construction of new tracks.

Grid connection

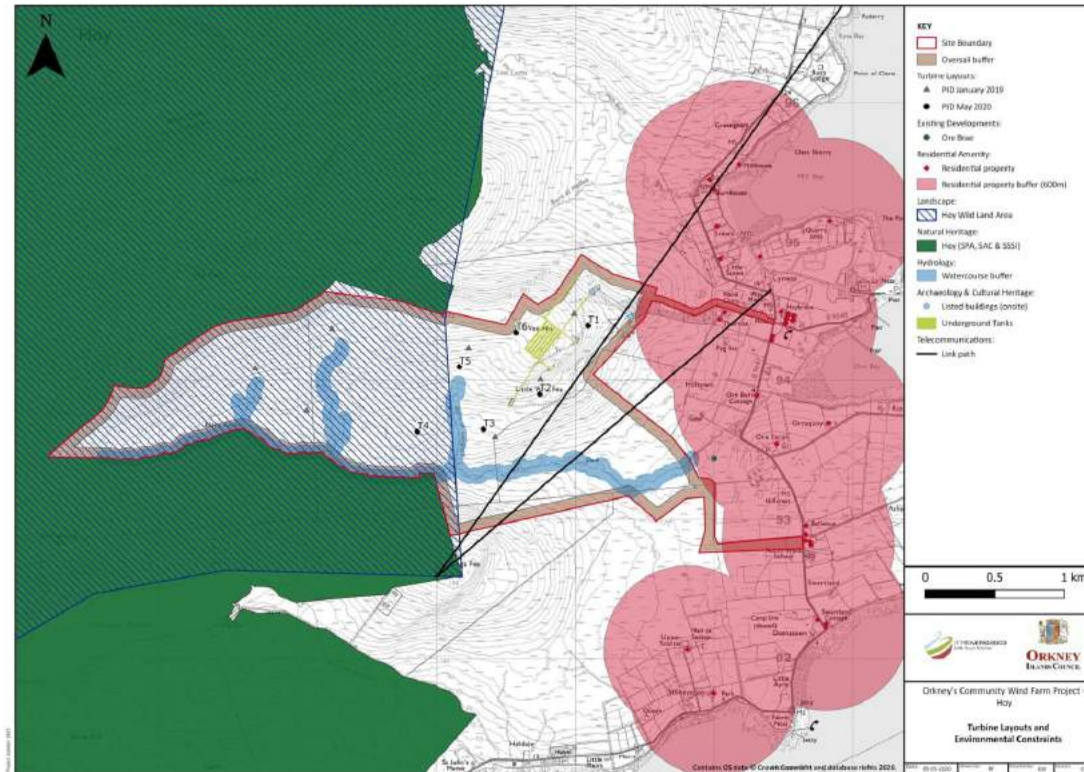


- ✓ Power generated from the turbines would be transferred via underground cables to the onsite substation(s) before onward transmission to the National Grid. Offsite infrastructure to connect the onsite substation(s) to the National Grid would be subject to a separate design process and consenting process.

What are the key design considerations?

Several factors are being considered in the ongoing site design process. These include (but are not limited to):

- Landscape and visual amenity
- Noise
- Shadow flicker
- Ornithology
- Terrestrial ecology
- Hydrology & peat
- Archaeology & cultural heritage
- Telecommunication links
- Transport
- Aviation
- Engineering
- Wind resource and turbine spacing
- Site boundary and oversail



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

How are we addressing these key design considerations?

Landscape & Visual



- The site is being designed with due consideration of landscape designations and wild land. Care is being taken to minimise impacts.
- We have considered visual impact through the site selection and continue to factor it into the ongoing design process.
- Maintaining a sizable separation distance from residential properties helps to reduce potential impacts on visual amenity. The closest property to the area being considered for turbine development is c.950m.
- Consultation is ongoing with Scottish Natural Heritage and Orkney Islands Council (OIC).
- The EIA will include a robust assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts.

Ecology & Ornithology



- Wind farm developments can affect wildlife and birds both during construction and operation and it is therefore important that the potential impacts are fully assessed. Consequently, a suite of ecology and ornithology surveys have been undertaken. The results of these surveys will strongly influence the final design, with turbines being positioned to minimise potential impacts.
- Consultation is ongoing with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage



- There are numerous heritage assets on and in the vicinity of the site. These include the listed underground fuel tanks, the formal naval headquarters and a wide range of non-designated wartime assets.
- Consultation is ongoing with Historic Environment Scotland and OIC.
- The potential impacts are being taken into account in the ongoing design process, and will be considered as part of the EIA

How are we addressing these key design considerations?

Noise



- The closest property to the area being considered for turbine development is c.950m. This separation distance will help to ensure levels during operation will remain within the guidance thresholds.
- A Construction Environmental Management Plan will be produced which will minimise noise and set out agreed working hours e.g. daytime only.
- Background noise surveys have been undertaken in agreement with the Environmental Health Officer at OIC.

Transport & Traffic



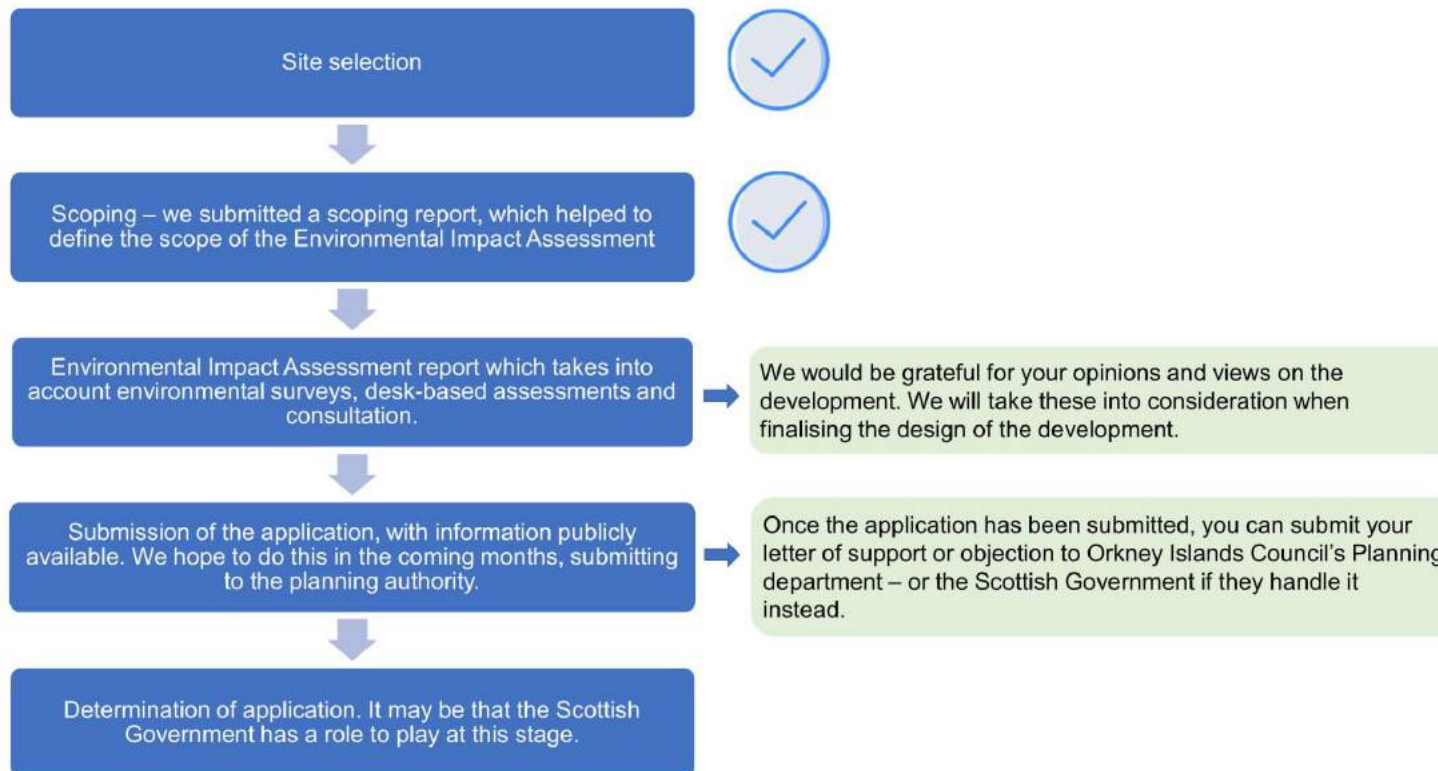
- A detailed analysis of the expected logistical requirements will be undertaken. This will consider the increased traffic during construction and the disruption to roads during abnormal load (turbine components) deliveries.
- We will agree a Construction Traffic Management Plan with Roads Services.

Site Specific



- During the design process telecommunications operators have been consulted to ensure turbines are positioned in locations that will not interfere with any links.
- In line with best practice, a 50m buffer has been applied to all watercourses running through the site.
- An initial peat probing survey has been undertaken, with further more detailed assessment still to be carried out.
- The potential for shadow flicker effects is limited given the separation from residential properties, however a full assessment will be carried out.

Where are we at in the process and how can you make your views known?



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Lyness Naval Cemetery



OS reference: 330246, 994657
Eye level: 19.5 m AOD
Direction of view: 251°
Nearest turbine: 1.18 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

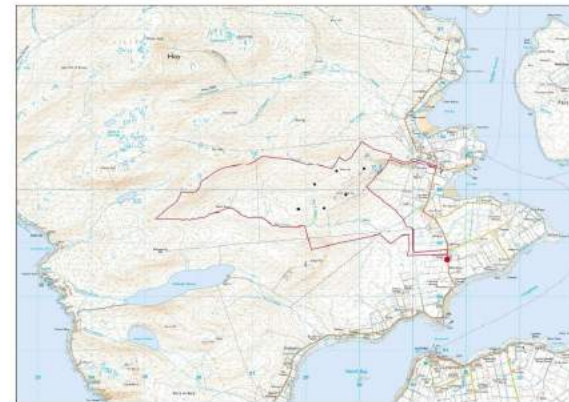


Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from North Walls School



OS reference: 330644, 992695
Eye level: 24.2 m AOD
Direction of view: 304°
Nearest turbine: 2.25 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

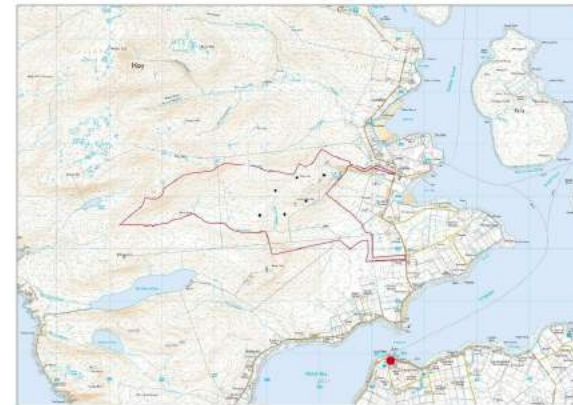


Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Longhope on South Walls



OS reference: 330359, 990869
Eye level: 12.6 m AOD
Direction of view: 329°
Nearest turbine: 3.43 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Houton to Lyness Ferry



OS reference: 331661, 996744
Eye level: 4.5 m AOD
Direction of view: 229°
Nearest turbine: 3.48 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Orphir



OS reference: 334009, 1005850
Eye level: 46.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 205°
Nearest turbine: 12.46 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Appendix 21– Feedback form for intended Hoy PID

Introduction

This Appendix displays the consultation form which was to be distributed at the Pre-Application consultation event. The consultation form was subsequently put into online form through SmartSurvey, with a downloadable and printable version also made available on the Council website. The feedback form asked for a general opinion on the development, further detail on that opinion and also any suggested changes to the development. The feedback form also explained the role of the pre-application process.



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Hoy

Pre-Application Consultation

Thank you for taking part in this consultation, which is part of the pre-application consultation (PAC) process being undertaken before we submit a planning application for this project.

The objective of the PAC is for communities to be better informed about major and national development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority. The PAC does not take away the need for, and right of, individuals and communities to express formal views to the planning authority during the planning application process itself. It is important, therefore, for communities and others to follow their interest in a proposal through to the planning application stage, when views can be made to the planning authority the application is determined.

Please note, before answering the following questions you should view the full proposals for the development at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC. You should also take the opportunity to contact our project team to discuss any queries or concerns you may have. Full details on how to do this are also available at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC,

We'd be grateful if you could now take some time to answer the following questions – your feedback is important to us.

The deadline for completion of this online survey is 12.00 on Monday 8 June 2020. Completed forms can be emailed to kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or posted to Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council, Town House, Stromness, KW16 3AA.

1. How did you find out about the consultation?

Public advertisement in The Orcadian.		Social media.	
Article in The Orcadian.		An email from the project team.	
Radio Orkney news.		Word of mouth.	
Radio Orkney Daily Diary.		Community Council meeting.	
On the Orcadian website.		On the Council website.	

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Agree.	Agree to an extent.	Disagree.	Comments.
The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative.				
This project is a good way for the Council to generate income so that it can continue to provide important services to people in Orkney.				
Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.				
I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.				

3. Are you in support of the project proposals in Hoy?

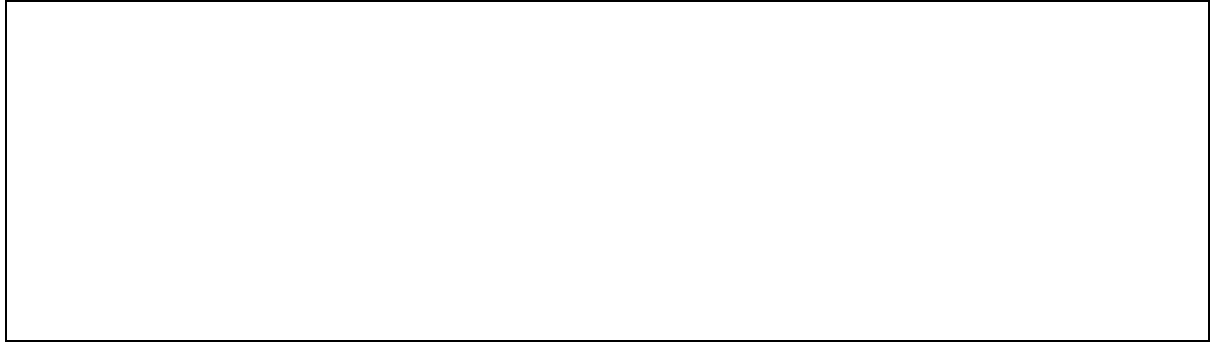
Yes.	
No.	
I am undecided yet.	

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

5. Do you have any suggestions for changes to our proposals for the site?

6. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

We want to keep in touch with the community throughout this process. If you wish to receive updates on the project, please include your name and contact details below:



We'll always treat your information with respect. All responses are for data analysis purpose or for future communications on this specific project, will be kept confidential and will not be shared. If you'd rather not hear from us or do not want us to hold this information anymore, please contact Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, by email on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk by phone 07818 508323

Appendix 22 – Press release for cancelled Hoy PID event

Introduction

This appendix is the press release that was sent on 24th March 2020, following the decision to cancel the Hoy PID event due to lockdown restrictions imposed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The press release was issued to The Orcadian and BBC Radio Orkney, as well as to the Island Link Officer and social media. The press releases states that an alternative plan is being worked on for consultation and provides contact details for anyone requiring further information.

Press release

The public consultation event planned for Thursday in Hoy for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project has been postponed due to the current situation with COVID-19. We are currently investigating an alternative plan for consulting with the public on this important project and details will be released in due course.

Any queries on the project should be directed to Project Officer, Kirsty Groundwater, by email on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk.

Appendix 23 – Press release announcing move to online PID event

Introduction

This appendix is the press release that was sent on 14th May 2020, setting out revised arrangements for pre-application consultation following the cancellation of a PID in March. The press release sets out the various options available for consultation (including postal packs), provides links to online content, provides contact details and provides a date and time for a virtual event. The press release also makes clear the role of pre-application consultation process.

Press release

Revised arrangements for Hoy pre-application consultation

Revised arrangements have been put in place by Orkney Islands Council for consulting with the public on proposed plans for a wind farm development in Hoy.

As the development is classed as a 'major development' there is a requirement to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the planning authority and carry out a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) – which usually would include a public event or exhibition.

A public event had been planned for Hoy in March, but this was cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions put in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

With the Scottish Government having recently passed emergency legislation to allow developers to carry out pre-application consultation without the need for a face to face public event, alternative plans have been put in place following government guidance – which will still allow members of the public to talk directly to the project team about the plans and raise any questions or concerns they may have – before a planning application is submitted.

The Council intends to submit a planning application later this year.

The project is part of 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' which also includes proposed wind farm developments at Quanterness and on Faray in the North Isles

The development will consist of up to six turbines with a maximum blade-tip height of 149.9m, access tracks, crane hardstandings, turbine foundations, underground cabling, on-site substation and maintenance building, a temporary construction compound, potential excavations/borrow workings and a permanent meteorological mast.

The objective of the PAC is for communities to be better informed about major and national development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority

The following options are now available to those who wish to be informed on the project and contribute their views.

- *Full information on the project, including downloadable and printable versions of the project information and a video presentation, are available at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC*

- *A feedback form is available online at the web address above or can be requested by post*
- *On 28 May 2020 from 16:00 to 19:00 a live and interactive web-based consultation will take place. Further details will be posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC on how to join the live event. During the live event you will be able to;*
 - *View outline proposals for the development.*
 - *Find out more about the development*
 - *Ask questions to members of the Project Team*
- *Members of the Council's project team are available by telephone to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.*
- *Members of the Council's project team are available for virtual one-to-one presentations by Skype on 21 May 2020 and 28 May 2020 between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 as well as at other times by arrangement, to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.*
- *Members of the Council's project team are available by email to discuss any questions or concerns.*
- *Information on the project can be sent by post on request*

Sweyn Johnston is the Council's Strategic Projects Director. He said: "We are very disappointed that we have been unable to carry out a public event in Hoy. The previous event that we held in Hoy, and indeed public events we have held elsewhere in Orkney during the project, have been very beneficial in meeting with the public to talk about 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project'."

"The emergency legislation passed by the Scottish Government is vital in keeping projects on track to support our future economic and societal recovery, businesses and jobs and avoiding delays to infrastructure and other developments."

"It's really important to us that members of the public are offered the best opportunity possible under the current circumstances to make their views known about the plans so that we can consider this before we submit our application. We have worked hard to develop a consultation plan which gives as much flexibility as possible to allow folk to provide that input and are hopeful for a high level of participation."

It should be noted that comments made to OIC through this PAC process are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted, neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken, and individuals and communities will have an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority at that time.

To discuss options for speaking to the Project Team please contact Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council by email on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or by phone on 07818508323

The deadline for submitting comments to the Project Team will be Monday 8 June 2020 at 12.00.

Comments can be submitted through:

- *the online feedback form referred to above at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC*
- *By email to kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk*
- *By phone to 07818508323*
- *By post to Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council, Town House, Stromness, KW16 3AA*

Appendix 24 – Advert for online PAC

Introduction

This Appendix contains the advert for the revised Hoy pre-application consultation. The date, time, and location of the event are shown. The advert sets out the various options available for consultation (including postal packs), provides the location of online content, provides contact details and provides a date and time for a virtual event. The advert also makes clear the role of pre-application consultation process. The advert was placed in The Orcadian on 14th and 21st May 2020

Notice of pre-application consultation public event



Orkney Islands Council intends to submit a planning application in 2020 for a wind farm development at and around Wee Fea on Hoy. The development will consist of up to six turbines with a maximum blade-tip height of 149.9m, access tracks, crane hardstandings, turbine foundations, underground cabling, on-site substation and maintenance building, a temporary construction compound, potential excavations/borrow workings and a permanent meteorological mast.

The main body of the site lies approximately 1.3 km west of Lyness on the island of Hoy. The site extends to approximately 488 hectares (ha) and is centred on British National Grid (BNG) ND 27973 93844

As the development is classed as a 'major development' there is a requirement to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the planning authority and carry out a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC).

The objective of the PAC is for communities to be better informed about major and national development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority.

Due to restrictions relating to the ongoing coronavirus crisis, the developer is unable to hold a face to face public event. Recent emergency legislation from the Scottish Government has allowed developers to carry out pre-application consultation via alternative means and therefore the following options are available to those who wish to be informed on the project and contribute their views.

- Full information on the project, including downloadable and printable versions of the project information and a video presentation, are available at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC
- A feedback form is available online at the web address above or can be requested by post.
- On Thursday 28 May 2020 from 16:00 to 19:00 a live and interactive web-based consultation will take place. Further details will be posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC on how to join the live event. During the live event you will be able to:
 - View outline proposals for the development.
 - Find out more about the development
 - Ask questions to members of the Project Team
- Members of the Council's project team are available by telephone to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.
- Members of the Council's project team are available for virtual one-to-one presentations by Skype on Thursday 21 May 2020 and Thursday 28 May 2020 between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 as well as at other times by arrangement, to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.
- Members of the Council's project team are available by email to discuss any questions or concerns.
- Information on the project can be sent by post on request.

To discuss the above options please contact Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council by email on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or by phone on 07818508323.

The deadline for submitting comments to the Project Team will be Monday 8 June 2020 at 12.00.

Comments can be submitted through:

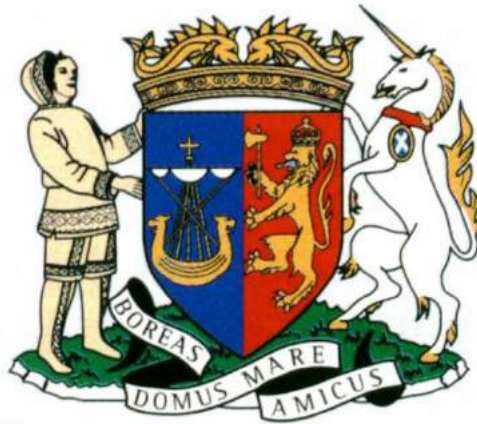
- the online feedback form referred to above at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC
- By email to kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk
- By phone to 07818508323
- By post to Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council, Town House, Stromness, KW16 3AA

It should be noted that comments made to OIC through this PAC process are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken, and individuals and communities will have an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority at that time.

Appendix 25 – Guide to consultation boards

Introduction

This appendix presents the 'Guide to Consultation Boards document'. This document was produced to provide further details on each of the information boards in lieu of a member of the public being accompanied around information boards by a project team member. The document was published on the Council website.



ORKNEY

ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Hoy Pre Application Consultation
Guide to consultation boards

Introduction

This document accompanies the consultation material for the Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Hoy. You should have it to hand whilst you are looking through the consultation material.

Both documents are part of the revised arrangements that have been put in place by Orkney Islands Council for consulting with the public on proposed plans for the development.

As the development is classed as a 'major development' there is a requirement to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the planning authority and carry out a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) – which usually would include a public event or exhibition.

A public event had been planned for Hoy to take place in March 2020, but this was cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions put in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

With the Scottish Government having recently passed emergency legislation to allow developers to carry out pre-application consultation without the need for a face to face public event, alternative plans have been put in place following government guidance – which will still allow members of the public to talk directly to the project team about the plans and raise any questions or concerns they may have – before a planning application is submitted.

The project is part of 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' which also includes proposed wind farm developments at Quanterness and on Faray in the North Isles

The objective of the PAC is for communities to be better informed about major and national development proposals and to have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted to the planning authority.

It should be noted that comments made to OIC through this PAC process are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted, neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken, and individuals and communities will have an opportunity to make representations on that application to the planning authority at that time.

All consultation material, including options for discussing the project with the project team and for submitting comments is available at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC. For further enquiries please contact Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council by email on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or by phone on 07818508323

The deadline for submitting comments to the Project Team will be Monday 8 June 2020 at 12.00.

Why are we consulting online and not face to face?

This consultation is part of the pre application consultation process in advance of submission of a planning application for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Hoy.

As the development is classed as a 'major development' there is a requirement to submit a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) to the planning authority and carry out a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) – which usually would include a public event or exhibition.

A public event had been planned for Hoy to take place in March 2020, but this was cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions put in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

We are hugely disappointed that we can't come out and talk to folk face to face to the community about the latest plans, but given the current situation we hope you can understand why it wouldn't be possible or sensible to do so and why we had to cancel the event planned for March.

The Scottish Government recently introduced emergency legislation which allows pre application consultation to take place without a physical public event, recognising the economic need to keep the planning system functioning, and also the uncertainty around when restrictions might be lifted.

That is particularly important for this project given the tight deadline we have been given if we want to meet the Needs Case conditions set out by OFGEM to secure a new electricity interconnector for Orkney. If we don't keep moving towards a planning application now, we significantly risk wasting the resources that have been put into this project to date.

As an alternative, we have put considerable effort into designing a consultation which we hope can reach as many people as possible and give everyone the opportunity to understand the proposals and to make your opinions heard.

What we are doing includes:

- Making project information and feedback sheets available online at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC, by email or by post, answering questions, and taking comments via those channels as well
- Offering one to one discussions on the phone or via Skype where we can talk through the proposals and any questions you might have, and take feedback.
- Holding a live and interactive web based event where people can hear from the project team and ask questions.

All of the details for this will be published in the local press, on social media and is available on the project pre application consultation webpage www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC

‘What is ‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’?

This first page of the consultation material is titled 'What is Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' and includes a map showing the locations of wind farms under investigation in Orkney.

Whilst the purpose of this consultation is to discuss the Hoy project, it is important to consider the big picture of where this project fits within the wider proposals in Orkney.

‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’ includes three potential wind farm sites - one in Hoy in the area around Wee Fea, another on Faray in the North Isles, and at Quanterness in St Ola.

You can see where each of these projects is located on the map, highlighted with a red mark.

You will notice that the map also displays several other potential wind farm sites that are being investigated by private developers and the Finstown substation where it is likely any new project will have to connect back to.

In terms of the Council projects - at this stage of the design each site has the potential capacity for six turbines at approximately 150m and a generating capacity of 28MW on each site.

The notable thing here is the size of the turbines which are larger than any on Orkney and more than twice the height of the Hoy community Turbine.

There are several goals we look to achieve by developing the project, with the aim of:

- generating income from publicly owned wind farm projects to support services in the local community and deliver community benefit.
- together with the other developers, supporting the needs case for a new interconnector for Orkney which would open up wider economic benefits via further opportunities within Orkney’s energy industry
- making sure that, if we have a new cable, that as much of the benefits as possible stick within Orkney. The best way of doing that is to have local ownership which benefits everybody, not just the shareholders.

What are the benefits for Orkney? (Part 1).

The second page of the consultation material is titled 'What are the benefits for Orkney?' and there is a subheading of 'Income and Community Benefits'.

One of the key aims of the project is to generate additional income and to essentially use that money to deliver community benefit in various ways.

As a Council we have significant issues around continually reducing budgets and increasing demand for public services and additional income from Orkney's Community Wind Farm project could make a big difference to that and to people's lives in Orkney.

This project is being developed for the benefit of Orkney and if the proposed sites are found through the planning process to be appropriate and the project goes forward, there are multiple community benefits to be gained from a council owned wind farm project.

- Significant income could be generated by the project, helping us to not only tackle the challenge of budget cuts but the increasing demand for public services.
- All profits would remain in Orkney helping preserve and enhance key services, like social care, education and transport.
- Job creation throughout the lifespan of the project.

The issue of community benefit has been raised frequently with the project team at previous public events. Since then, in September last year, the Council has agreed on some guiding principles for community benefit from the project which will help to clarify the aims;

- The key purpose of Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project is to generate profit to be used for the benefit of the people of Orkney.
- This will be done via a 'Community Fund' to be used in the interests of Orkney and its inhabitants.
- The project will be financed in such a way that we can achieve profit which can be used for community benefit as soon as reasonably practicable.
- It won't be possible for private individuals to take a shareholding in any project.
- As the communities located closest to projects will be impacted most by developments these communities will get a 'location-specific community benefit payment'.

The exact way in which 'location-specific community benefit payment' will be delivered has not been decided and we would like your views on how you think this should be done. We'll be running a public consultation exercise later this year.

What are the benefits for Orkney? (Part 2)

The third page of the consultation material is titled 'What are the benefits for Orkney' and there are two sub headings 'Securing a new cable' and 'Creating a carbon neutral future'.

On top of the direct financial benefits to the community, the project will enable the Council to join other local developers in meeting the requirements for securing a new interconnector for Orkney.

As you may be aware the grid in Orkney is completely full now and it is very difficult for any new energy projects to be developed. We think that a new cable will bring significant economic benefit to Orkney and will substantially support the vital renewable energy industry in Orkney.

OFGEM has now conditionally approved proposals from SSEN to build a 220MW interconnector linking Orkney with the Scottish mainland. Approval is dependent on at least 135 MW of new wind farm projects in Orkney either being awarded a Contract for Difference (CfD) or being judged 'likely to be developed' by December 2021.

'Likely to be developed' means that the project should:

- be financially viable
- have signed a relevant grid connection agreement
- have planning permission

The wider economic development value of a new cable to Orkney could be highly significant, but what is critical in maximizing that benefit is making sure that we have a substantial proportion of local ownership of projects connecting to the cable – that is something which is critical in helping jobs and income remain in the county and is a key driver behind 'Orkneys' Community Wind Farm Project'.

Climate change and the imperative to reduce carbon emissions is another important driver for the project, which could go a long way in helping to create a carbon neutral future for our islands.

As you may or may not be aware Orkney has produced more than 100% of its electricity needs from renewable energy since 2014, but we still produce a lot of carbon, particularly in transport and heating, and there is still a lot more we can and need to do to decarbonise.

To give some context on this issue the Office of National Statistics estimates Orkney's carbon emissions at 192,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year, and we think each of our projects, if built, could offset around 40,000 tonnes of CO2 each a year. For three projects that's 120,000 tonnes per year, so they really could make a big difference.

We also have national targets to contribute to - net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in Scotland by 2045 and in the UK by 2050 - and to meet these targets, emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry will all have to be addressed.

Why have we chosen these particular sites?

The fourth page of the consultation material is titled 'Why have we chosen these particular sites'. It includes a map of Orkney showing where our sites are and some of the constraints on site choice.

At public events on the project, we regularly get asked about why we have selected the three sites we have and indeed why we haven't selected other potential sites.

This section of the consultation material demonstrates that we have been through a rigorous process in selecting sites that we feel offer sufficient scale to be economically viable and have a reasonable chance of gaining consent.

On the map of Orkney we've drawn a pink 700m buffer around all residential properties as these are areas that are likely to be unsuitable for development. We have also in the hatched areas superimposed all the internationally designated areas in Orkney, where it would also be highly unlikely that consent could be achieved.

That leaves a number of white patches to investigate further and we have essentially looked at any white patch of sufficient scale for a project and ruled it in or out for any number of reasons. We have then whittled our list down to what we see as our three best options – Hoy, Faray and Quanterness.

The site on Hoy is the largest of the three sites, where initially there was potential to accommodate up to 30 turbines. Having performed various site assessments and undertaken two years of bird studies it was found that the site could realistically host up to six turbines.

The Quanterness site has several practical advantages being in an agricultural landscape outwith ecological or landscape designations, having good access and being a reasonable distance from residential properties. Due to it being relatively close to Kirkwall it also allows us the opportunity to potentially explore a separate project in which the Council could directly supply electricity to its own buildings as a means to reduce costs. Faray has no residential properties on the island and came into Council ownership in early 2019.

What else have we included on the site?

The fifth page of the consultation material is titled 'What else have we included on the site?' and includes a map of the potential site at Wee Fea in Hoy. It shows a full layout of the Hoy site and explains the various components including access roads, wind farm components, construction components and grid connections.

Having given you an overview of 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm project, the rest of the consultation material offers more specifics around the site at Hoy - beginning with what to expect on the site.

The proposed site is in the area around Wee Fea to the west of Lyness pier.

Components would be delivered to Lyness and then transported along the B9048. It is anticipated that loads would then cross the B9047 and join the unclassified track heading west to site. From this point existing tracks will be upgraded, and new tracks constructed to accommodate component delivery to turbine locations.

The permanent infrastructure that will be installed onsite will be the six turbines up to a tip height of 149.9m, permanent hardstanding at the base of each turbine for the construction and maintenance of the turbines, an onshore substation, a permanent met mast and underground cabling connection the turbines to the substation.

During the construction of the wind farm there will be several temporary infrastructures, a compound to store materials and machinery, a laydown area for blades and various components at each turbine location and potentially excavation and borrow pits.

Power generated from the turbines would be transferred via underground cables to the onsite substation before onward transmission which will likely be to Finstown substation.

The offsite grid infrastructure of this project will be designed by SSEN and will be subject to a separate planning application, SSEN will endeavour to determine the best solution to connect to the grid. It is too early in the design process to have any clarity on what options may be available.

What are the key design considerations?

The sixth page of the consultation material is titled 'What are the key design considerations?' and includes a map of the potential site, as well as a key describing several factors that are being considered in the ongoing site design process.

The project team visited Hoy in January 2019 to present an initial design showing how the proposed layout for the development might look. Since then there has been considerable work done and the layout has evolved.

The map shows the initial turbine locations marked as grey triangles and the new turbine locations as black circles. The turbines have been moved to the east of the site, which moves several of the turbines outside the wild land area and reduces any impact we may have on the local bird population. We have managed to do this without coming significantly closer to any of the residential properties to the east of the site.

Moving the infrastructure to the east of the site has brought several turbines closer to the underground tanks below Wee Fea. The development has been designed to ensure there is an adequate safety buffer between the existing substructure and the proposed turbine infrastructure.

Other aspects you can pick out on the map are the residential properties and the 600m buffer around the properties, the Burn of Ore and several other watercourse s that run through the site, as well as the natural heritage sites to the west, and the telecommunications link that runs to the east of the site.

How are we addressing these key design considerations?

The seventh page of the consultation material is titled 'How are we addressing these key design considerations?'. It follows on from the issues raised in the previous slide and covers topics such as landscape and visual issues, ecology and ornithology and archaeology and cultural heritage.

There are a number of factors to consider when analysing the potential impact on the local area from a wind farm development. Careful and informed consideration of all these aspects is used to optimise the design and to produce the environmental impact assessment report.

An important element of any development like this is 'what will the visual impact of these large turbines be on our landscape?' As part of the assessment we have undertaken a landscape visual impact analysis which has fed into the siting of the turbines and we have maintained an acceptable distance from residential properties

As wind farm developments can affect wildlife and birds during construction and operation, the potential impacts on them have been a key component of the design process. The surveys we have carried out have influenced the turbine locations. To reduce the potential impacts, turbines have been moved further away from the natural heritage sites to the west. During the analysis our team have consulted closely with Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure best practices are followed.

In and around the site there are several wartime heritage assets, this includes the underground fuel tanks and the formal naval headquarters at Lyness. Consultation with Historic Environment Scotland is ongoing, the siting of turbines has considered the potential impacts on these and this will be addressed in the EIA.

How are we addressing these key design considerations?

The eighth page of the consultation material is also titled 'How are we addressing these key design considerations?'. It too follows on from the issues raised in the previous slides and this time covers noise, transport and traffic and certain site specific issues.

At our previous consultation events we had been asked about the noise impact of turbines of this size on local homes. Our background noise surveys have indicated that due to the distance between the closest home and the site the possible noise levels experienced will be minimal and below the guidance threshold.

Another question we are asked regularly is about shadow flicker, which is an effect that can occur when rotating wind turbine blades periodically cast shadows through windows of neighbouring properties. Due to the distance and location of the nearest home to the site, the impact of shadow flicker is limited however a full assessment has been included in the EIA.

During the construction period a construction environmental management plan will be produced which will minimise noise and set out agreed working hours.

Part of the construction plan will include a traffic management plan. It is likely there will be an increase in traffic during the construction phase with slight disruption to other road users during the transportation of the turbine components, such as blades. The traffic management plan will outline the project requirements and look to keep any disruption to a minimum.

Other aspects that we have been considering are:

- consulting with telecommunication operators to ensure turbines do not interfere with any links
- being an adequate distance from any watercourses in the area.
- avoiding any exceptionally deep peatland areas.

‘Where are we at in the process and how can you make your views known?’

The ninth page of the consultation material is titled ‘Where are we at in the process and how can you make your views known?’. It shows a timeline of where the project is currently at and the opportunities for you to contribute your views.

The timeline shows information on when the site was selected and when a scoping report was submitted to the local planning authority in 2018.

Following feedback received from Planning and other consultees such as Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland and SEPA we proceeded to the next stage of this timeline, the Environmental Impact Assessment - which is an analysis of all the impacts our project may have on the local area. This includes site surveys, desk top studies and multiple expert consultations and helps us to determine the best design for all parties involved.

At this stage you can let us know as developers what your thoughts are on the project. This can be done in several ways as specified on the webpage.

The next stage of the process will be the submission of the planning application, which for the Hoy site is likely to be before Autumn this year. Once the local planning authority has validated the application, all relevant documentation will be made available to the public and this is when you can submit your letters of support or objections to OIC Planning department or to the Scottish Government if they decide to handle the application.

The local planning authority or the Scottish Government will then determine if the project is to be approved.

Viewpoint Visualisations

In order to assess the potential visual effects of the proposed wind farm at Hoy we have selected a number of viewpoints to represent the views of residents, road users, walkers and ferry passengers both in the local and wider area

Five of the viewpoints are presented in the consultation document. Each slide comprises a photomontage to represent how the view will be changed by the proposed development.

Lyness Cemetery

The first viewpoint is taken from the Lyness Naval Cemetery and was selected to represent the views of visitors to the cemetery, as well as road users on the B9046. The view looks south west towards Wee Fea and would be located at just over 1km to the closest turbine. While all six turbines would be visible, they would all be partly screened by the ridge line of Wee Fea, apart from the two closest turbines which would be seen at their full height.

North Walls School

The second viewpoint is located at North Walls School on the B9047 south of Lyness. It has been selected to represent the views of people at the school as well as road users and local residents. The view looks north-west towards Wee Fea at just over 2km to the closest turbine. The school faces south to catch the scenic views towards South Walls, it also opens up across the hills towards the west and north where the proposed development can be seen to its full extent. This view also includes the existing single turbine at Ore Brae, set at the base of the hill to the right of the proposed turbines.

Longhope

The third viewpoint is located in the village of Longhope on the north coast of South Walls. It has been selected to represent the views of residents, as well as road users on the B9047 which passes through the village. The natural view from Longhope is north across the water. The key feature is the low moorland hills upon which the proposed development which would be situated. The closest turbine is a distance of 3.5km. All six turbines would be visible, seen set across the hill slopes of Wee Fea and west into the valley of the Ore Burn. The existing Ore Brae turbine is visible in the right of the photo

View from the ferry

The fourth viewpoint is located on the Houton to Lyness ferry as it passes through the sound, with Hoy to the west and Fara to the east. It has been selected to represent the views of passengers on the ferry traveling to and from Hoy. The view looks south west across Hoy's eastern coastline towards Wee Fea where the closest turbine would be a distance of 3.5km away. While all six turbines would be visible only two would be visible to their full extent, while the other four would be partly screened by the ridge line of Wee Fea.

Orphir

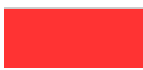









The fifth viewpoint is located on the western edge of the village of Orphir on the mainland of Orkney. It has been selected to represent the views of road users on the A964 and residents in the village of Orphir and the surrounding rural area. Views are mostly orientated south east over Scapa Flow to South Ronaldsay and south towards Flotta. They also extend south east towards Hoy and it is in this direction the proposed development is seen at a distance of 12.5km. From this longer range the turbines would appear as relatively small scale and distant features, occupying a much smaller proportion of the open view of Scapa Flow. They would be seen associated with the much lower moorland hills to the south of the island, separate to the higher hills in the north.

Appendix 26 – Online survey responses

Introduction

This Appendix contains a table showing the number of responses to a set of questions regarding Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Hoy asked during the pre-application process.

1. How did you find out about the consultation?

			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Public advertisement in The Orcadian.		23.53%	8
2	Article in The Orcadian.		20.59%	7
3	Radio Orkney news.		2.94%	1
4	Radio Orkney Daily Diary.		5.88%	2
5	Social media.		23.53%	8
6	An email from the project team.		17.65%	6
7	Word of mouth.		8.82%	3
8	Community Council meeting.		2.94%	1
9	On the Orcadian website.		14.71%	5
10	On the Council website.		5.88%	2
			<i>answered</i>	34

1. How did you find out about the consultation?

	Response Percent	Response Total
	skipped	0

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Agree to an extent</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	
<i>The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative.</i>	64.7% (22)	20.6% (7)	14.7% (5)	34
<i>This project is a good way for the Council to generate income so that it can continue to provide important services to people in Orkney.</i>	50.0% (17)	17.6% (6)	32.4% (11)	34
<i>Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.</i>	47.1% (16)	26.5% (9)	26.5% (9)	34
<i>I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.</i>	70.6% (24)	23.5% (8)	5.9% (2)	34
Comments: (15)				
1	Total cost of the project has not been told			

2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?




2	<p><i>It's not clear how far through the consultation we are at when asked for comments. However it's clear that Orkney needs to increase renewable electricity generation by a factor of at least 5 and that a new cable connection is required to enable this to take place.</i></p> <p><i>The wind farm proposed by the council on Hoy makes a sizable contribution to what is needed and I am 100% behind the application.</i></p>
3	<p><i>We have put 'agree to an extent' in answer to whether a new cable will be beneficial to Orkney's local economy as we would expect the extent to which a new cable benefits the local economy to depend on the percentage of energy developments that are in local ownership. We would expect that the more energy developments that are in local community or Council ownership then the more funding would be available to direct into local services, supporting the local economy.</i></p>
4	<p><i>This council has not one experienced businessperson in it, any council or business that listens to its so called wind farm expert, who at a meeting with OREF about the project stated when questioned by environmentalists and renewable experts the following.</i></p> <p><i>I do not know the total cost of the project as we don't know height or type of turbine we will install.</i></p> <p><i>To install the turbines we will borrow the money but don't know the interest rate we will pay.</i></p> <p><i>No we don't have a contract for our electricity and don't know how much we will be paid for it.</i></p> <p><i>I can tell you with certainty that each site will make a profit of two million pound.</i></p> <p><i>The answers given would have made DEL BOY proud and if this council are willing to part with the amount of money required for this project on DEL BOYS say so hell mend them.</i></p> <p><i>Each councillor who supports this project should sign a document saying that they will reimburse the council not if, but when the project goes wrong.</i></p>
5	<p><i>I will continue to search out additional information about the project.</i></p>
6	<p><i>The council would be better off investing in a wind farm in Caithness, or offshore, instead of one adjacent to an important bird reserve.</i></p>
7	<p><i>The privatisation of public services is not the way in which they should be funded. Experience over the last forty years has clearly demonstrated that principle, and in particular the past five months has shown in great detail the consequences of that failure.</i></p> <p><i>General or specific taxation is and should remain the basis of funding for all public services.</i></p> <p><i>The question is asked whether the windfarm project is a ""good way"" for the Council to generate income. It should be very clearly understood by the Council, and by the public, that such projects can fail as well as succeed, and in the increasingly uncertain political and economic climate the likelihood of the failure of this project has increased.</i></p>




2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

8	<i>These are quite a selective set of questions. For instance, as well as being concerned about climate change, I am also concerned about the impact of developments in wilder landscapes. There is a balance to be struck and the questions do not give the opportunity to express this.</i>
9	<i>Important issues remain unaddressed, despite direct requests from existing wind farm operator - it seems the consultation wants to bias towards easy positives like climate change worries but will not engage over potential negatives such as wake effect for the existing community wind farm project. It seems the OIC is being divisive for some reason and is clearly wanting a formal planning objection to be raised in respect to wake effect on the existing community turbine.</i>
10	<i>It needs to enhance the island as a whole, not only the wider community</i>
11	<i>Exactly the kind of approach that the council should be taking and seems like a good place for a windfarm</i>
12	<i>I am very doubtful of the financial benefit that will be derived from this project. The Highlands of Scotland were decimated to make way for the Hydroelectric Schemes on the promise of free electricity for the Community. The reality is we pay more for power than anywhere else and all power is sent to the National grid. This project will be no different.</i>
13	<p><i>Part 1 The information is an uncritical view of the Council's project by the Council.</i></p> <p><i>Part 2 The assumption here is that the project will generate income, and does not define which services the Council considers 'important'.</i></p> <p><i>Part 3 A new cable is not part of the proposed application. A new cable would bring benefits and problems for the local economy (turbine owners vs tourism).</i></p> <p><i>Part 4 There's an assumption in this question that any action to combat climate change will inevitably be 100% positive to the environment.</i></p>
14	<i>hoy needs this development and lots more</i>
15	<i>I have marked two questions here as disagree as it has not been satisfactorily demonstrated by OIC that the benefits of these schemes outweigh the negative aspects on the environment and the parts of the economy in Orkney that are not centred around renewable energy. Whether this is a good way for the council to proceed with generating income is dependent on the costs of planning, construction etc. as well as any cost/potential loss of income to our already existing businesses. The reputation of Hoy as an undeveloped wilderness area is threatened by such a large development. As the justification for the new cable appears entirely based on its value to the renewables industry, and bearing in mind the considerable costs, it also seems likely that the council & others will wish to further develop and take any opportunity to expand their initial</i>




2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?




schemes in the future. As it appears that previous consultation on landscape and impact is now regarded as guidance only there is little reassurance that this will not open the doors to a bigger development in the future.

2.1. The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		64.7%	22
2	Agree to an extent.		20.6%	7
3	Disagree.		14.7%	5
			<i>answered</i>	34

2.2. This project is a good way for the Council to generate income so that it can continue to provide important services to people in Orkney.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		50.0%	17
2	Agree to an extent.		17.6%	6
3	Disagree.		32.4%	11
			<i>answered</i>	34

2.3. Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		47.1%	16
2	Agree to an extent.		26.5%	9
3	Disagree.		26.5%	9
			<i>answered</i>	34

2.4. I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		70.6%	24
2	Agree to an extent.		23.5%	8
3	Disagree.		5.9%	2
			<i>answered</i>	34

3. Are you in support of the project proposals in Hoy?				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes.		44.12%	15
2	No.		32.35%	11
3	I am undecided yet.		23.53%	8
			<i>answered</i>	34
			<i>skipped</i>	0

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.				
			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question		100.00%	31
	1	<i>These are huge turbines in a highly sensitive landscape and completely out of place. It's not good enough just to say that we can never mitigate their visual impact and so will just have to live with it.</i>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
2	<i>The cost of getting everything out to the island</i>		
3	<i>Yes I am 100% in support of this project which is well sighted and has taken account of issues with the local wildlife ensuring that the damage is minimised. The environmental positives from this wind farm masivly outweigh the small number of negatives which as I see it are damage to peat land, interruption and displacement of some birds, insects and plants, alteration of the view both of Hoy and in some cases looking out from Hoy.</i>		
4	<i>We are largely supportive of this development for the community benefits it is expected to bring. We have answered 'No' above because we have a particular concern about the impacts on Hoy's Wild Land Area arising from the suggested location of Turbine 4, which is within Hoy's Wild Land Area. We don't object to this turbine, or the total number of turbines, but rather to its siting. The proposed site boundary for the development cuts into the Wild Land Area which has made siting one turbine within this area possible. We note that several turbines that were previously proposed in the Wild Land Area do not now appear in these plans. The rationale for why one remains in a Wild Land Area is not set out at this stage, whilst that may not have been deemed necessary, it means we are left to speculate. Given that the PAN consultation document states, 'The site is being designed with due consideration of landscape designations and wild land' and that 'Care is being taken to minimise impacts', it would be useful to understand why this turbine needs to be located in a Wild Land Area.</i>		
5	<i>Good idea for Council to make profit and use it to help folk in Orkney. Site is an ideal place for a windfarm and would look nice in the landscape.</i>		
6	<i>Wind energy will be a short term solution for renewable energy. I don't believe the windmills will be a permanent feature but are more of a stepping stone until alternative energy sources are developed. Not 50 years ago every farm had a windmill for pumping water. The benefits justify the project going ahead and if we can secure a new cable to mainland Scotland it's a financial game changer for Orkney and the OIC's ability to fund a wide range of services for the Orkney people.</i>		
7	<i>My previous answers cover the project on Hoy.</i>		
8	<i>I think that OIC is showing fantastic initiative in developing its own wind projects with the benefits to be returned to the community. The projects also align with and help to deliver the wider objectives of building sufficient demand / capacity for an upgraded cable and also addressing climate change. I accept that in order for these projects to proceed, they need to be sited somewhere and nowhere in Orkney will they be hidden from view. This is reality. I live in Orphir and the project will be fully visible from my home. I don't have an issue with this and I believe that as time goes on less and less people, either residents or visitors, will see things similarly.</i>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
9	<i>It is necessary for me to have more information. I do support alternative sources of energy. However the scope, size, continuing maintenance required for the project, the visual impact to Hoy and unanticipated impact on the environment are questions that require more information. Will Scottish Hydro commit to the project and what if surplus energy is not purchased. Should Orkney consider exploring a self sufficient plan for Orkney alone?</i>		
10	<i>I'm concerned that the project is financially nonviable and that the forward projections are unrealistic</i>		
11	<i>Wrong place.</i>		
12	<i>I have long thought OIC should have been investing towards a council/community windfarm to support not only OIC but other community de-carbination initiative's as well as social and recreational initiatives.</i> <i>In addition to the above local investment opportunities brought by this scheme I feel that Orkney would be best served in setting up this community fund to bolster the dwindling value of the Oil Reserve Fund, as has been shown quite recently due to COVID-19 and international issues the value of oil can tumble significantly in a very short period of time, this has the direct potential to damage Orkneys Oil Reserve Funding for current and future generations of Orcadians.</i> <i>While the investment from outside commercial companies has given Orkney the general foothold it needed to advance and succeed in renewable energy, those companies only serve their shareholders and not the people of Orkney as a whole and outside of on-site maintenance fees, land rents etc, none of the income generated by those wind turbine's benefit the people of Orkney nor the OIC.</i>		
13	<i>I have no problem with the proposed sites and welcome the opportunity for the community of Orkney to benefit from the revenue and employment that this project will create.</i>		
14	<i>Hoy has long been neglected by OIC with regards to any development. Wee Fea already has some of the infrastructure required. Already blighted with remains of structures from both world wars. A few wind turbines will soon blend in to be part of the landscape.</i>		
15	<i>Windmills are technically, financially, economically, environmentally and societally ineffective and inefficient. Orkney is a marginal contributor to the capacity of the National Grid, and therefore politically expedient in relation to decarbonisation policies.</i>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
16	<p><i>Yes, provided (a) the business case is properly and thoroughly assessed in the light of known windspeeds and current and projected trends in electricity prices, (b) RSPB and SNH are fully satisfied re their remits and there is a requirement for restoration of disturbed ground, including the verges of access tracks, (c) the associated planning conditions have real teeth in terms of noise, shadow flicker, light pollution and other nuisance and (d) similarly stringent conditions are applied to the SSE substation and infrastructure. It is a great pity that when two developments (windfarm and grid connection) are inextricably linked, the UK planning system does not allow them to be considered together.</i></p>		
17	<p><i>The existing community turbine project is duty bound by it's funders and owners to protect it's interests. Two previous attempts to develop wind farms nearby have lead to wake effect agreements - the OIC planning committee refused (quite correctly) to rule the planning application for Haybrake Wind Farms Ltd until a written agreement with Hoy Energy Ltd existed. The previous developer was it appears wise and completed an agreement prior to formal planning application - thus avoiding any objections related to the community project - they were successful in obtaining planning permission, Haybrake Wind Farms Ltd were not.</i></p> <p><i>The final physical position of the proposed OIC development is not really the issue here - the issue is that the OIC will not engage on the principle of wake effect - crazy really when a simple exchange of letters ensuring acknowledgement and commitment to resolve by agreement would suffice.</i></p>		
18	<p><i>who will benefit from the electricity production, will the cost of electricity reduce for Orkney residents. Benefits or otherwise of the development on the population of Hoy. There is so much barren land in Scotland is it necessary to site these turbines in an area of natural beauty and peace.</i></p>		
19	<p><i>Needs to provide Isles based jobs</i></p> <p><i>Needs to secure annual funding for duration of operational turbines life's , thus needs to relate to profit ability of turbines</i></p> <p><i>All raw materials need to be sourced on island</i></p> <p><i>Construction transport has to be considered, Ferry already runs to capacity on the island so another vessel needs to be identified for construction phase</i></p>		
20	<p><i>All makes sense.</i></p>		
21	<p><i>I am supportive of community ownership of renewable projects.</i></p> <p><i>I am concerned about the possibility of wake effect turbulence on the existing community owned turbine. I have drawn this to the attention of the project team and also to OIC policy on the matter. I expect this to be fully adhered too after appropriate assessment and discussions have taken place.</i></p>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
	<p><i>I note that any necessary noise mitigation measures to protect the Lyness area from unacceptable noise levels will be installed at the construction stage and will be automatic in operation.</i></p> <p><i>The turbines as currently proposed seem to have about 500m separation. With a 135m rotor diameter, this is less than four rotor diameters. This is at the very lowest end of recommended separation distance on what will be a very windy and dynamic site. I think this will cause measurable loss of production in downwind turbines and probably long term durability and longevity issues. I know there is a trade off between these various costs and also that the site is somewhat restricted in scope. I hope this has been appropriately assessed.</i></p>		
22	<p><i>Hoy needs them, Orkney needs them, Scotland needs them and the World needs them.</i></p> <p><i>I have no great concerns about visual impact as I don't find turbines unpleasant to look at.</i></p>		
23	<p><i>I think that having a windfarm on Hoy would be a massive eyesore, and would not be of benefit to the wider community. Six huge turbines would be seen miles away and this would undeniably taint the landscape, scaring away tourists and depressing locals. It could even be a danger to the Whitetailed eagles who reside there.</i></p> <p><i>Despite having windfarms elsewhere in Orkney, the income they generate for the council doesn't seem to be benefitting anyone. Where does it go? Orkney is one of the only places in Scotland whose Council charges money for charging electric vehicles, why do they do this if they are making money from windfarms? The price of my electric bill suggests that I'm not getting anything out of the windfarms we already have here, so why would I want another one? How are these trubines actually helping the community? The budget cuts on grass cutting and the attempt to shut down St Colm's etc suggest that the money the council makes off of these turbines isn't going towards anything besides putting money in their own pockets.</i></p> <p><i>I feel the same way about the propositions for windfarms on Quarterness and Faray, the giant windturbines would be taking the magic away from Orkney's landscape and generating nothing beneficial for the wider community.</i></p>		
24	<p><i>No I do not. This desiccation of a beautiful island is unwarranted based on the dubious benefits that wind power presents. Profits and power will almost certainly NOT be retained in Orkney despite claims to the contrary and once again the area will be raped for the benigif of others. These structures are not efficient and need to be built in such numbers that they become a horrible eyesore in an unspoiled landscape.</i></p>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
25	<p><i>I believe the future has to be based around renewable energy and using this project as a way of providing a carbon free sustainable energy source as well as providing valuable income for Orkney seems sensible. It is important that Orkney uses some of this income to attract businesses/residents.</i></p>		
26	<p><i>Response by Orkney Field Club to the Orkney Islands Council's Hoy Pre-application Consultation</i></p> <p><i>During the sixty years since its inception, the Orkney Field Club (OFC) has constantly encouraged the study and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of the County. In this time we have accumulated extensive knowledge of the natural environment of Orkney, including Hoy and this proposed development area. We are well qualified to understand and comment upon the effects of developments on particular areas of Orkney.</i></p> <p><i>The OFC is generally supportive of renewable energy development, particularly if benefitting the local community. However, we strongly believe that any such development must be appropriately sited from landscape and ecological points of view. In this regard we have concerns about the significant potential adverse effects of this development.</i></p> <p><i>Whilst as yet we do not have the fuller information contained in an Environmental Statement, and will comment further when we do, we would draw your attention to our following main areas of concern at this stage.</i></p> <p><i>1. Wildlife and habitats</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>· Birds.</i> <p><i>Interference with flights paths, displacement from area and risk of collision deaths to, especially but not only White-tailed Eagle, Red-throated Diver and Hen Harrier</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>· Mammals</i> <p><i>In particular, bats using old wartime buildings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>· Plants and habitats</i> <p><i>The area close to T4 and further west within the development area perimeter shown on maps is of exceptional importance for some rare species and the particular and unusual habitats and hydrology that support them. The protective buffer areas along burns are not sufficient to avoid interference with hydrology and habitats in the extensive, diffuse areas of flush and spring present in the area. There is also a high of risk to these features from construction of roads and their drainage.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>· Invertebrates</i> <p><i>In particular, odonata (dragonflies and damselflies). Pools round ND289940 hold the highest diversity of species for any known accessible site in Orkney.</i></p> <p><i>2. Landscape and Visual Impact :</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Wild Land</i> <p><i>T4 is in the designated Hoy Wild Land Area and all other T positions are close to the Hoy WLA. This is the only area designated as such in Orkney and the siting of very large turbines and associated infrastructure upon it (and near it) will result in the loss of many special 'wild' qualities</i></p>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
	<p>and experiences and is not acceptable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Landscape and Visual Impacts <p>The effect of the large size of the turbines in relation to the scale of this sensitive landscape, together with the visual impact of the development, including all its associated infrastructure, on views from the surrounding area are all of concern.</p> <p>Finally, we have a question. Why does the perimeter of the proposed development area extend west so very far from the westernmost proposed turbine position (T4)? The area is clearly not necessary for the current proposed development. It should be clarified as a matter of urgency whether this area is viewed as an area for possible future extension of the wind farm.</p>		
27	<p>Too many turbines already in Orkney. Stop devastating the landscape.</p>		
28	<p>Whilst I acknowledge the growing need for further independent council income, I remain unconvinced, given current tariffs and subsidies and with the significant build costs, that this project will be of real benefit to Orkney. The cost of connecting from Orkney Mainland to Hoy will be a further burden and one which I have not seen properly addressed since the initial 30 Turbine/Tidal Array proposals of the past.</p> <p>Another issue that I have not seen addressed satisfactorily is the noise pollution created by these large turbines. Due to wind direction/speed and landscape this will be a changing thing affecting different residents in its path. The responses received by those who have questioned this so far appear to rely on an assertion that sound is predicted to fall within acceptable levels as defined by the government and that, in practice this is not the case, mitigation will be required. What mitigation is being considered for this eventuality? Also, has the council addressed the issue of Infrasound - very low frequency noise, below the human hearing range that is felt rather than heard?</p>		
29	<p>Hoy is rich in wind energy resource, using this resource is very beneficial to the island community and the surrounding nature. Hoy is a has a very low-density population but the marine activity surrounding the island is heavily used to the transportation routes. Adding a green energy resource will reduce the impact on the island (for example, by shifting into more electrical heaters rather than oil). And will generate more community funds to improve the island lifestyle.</p>		
30	<p>My concerns are as follows:-</p> <p>The visual impact where we live at the head of Longhope bay will not affect us too much but the people who live in the village and area of South Walls and also those who will be nearer to the turbines in Lyness will be visually impacted.</p> <p>I note you are siting the north isles turbine on the island of Faray. Why is it not possible to site the turbines on either of the uninhabited islands in</p>		

4. Can you expand on your answer to the above question? Points you might want to cover include your view on the siting of the development, your view on the layout of the site, what you see as the positives of the project and any concerns you might have.

		Response Percent	Response Total
	<p><i>Scapa Flow, i.e. Cava or Fara? Also why not further north on the island i.e. at the Lyrawa lookout site or similar. Then, the turbines would not be directly visible to people who live in Lyness and Longhope.</i></p> <p><i>My main concern relates to the provision of stone for the foundations and the road to give access to the turbine site. We live approx 100 metres from the entrance to the Witter Quarry. At the last consultation you gave at North Walls School I brought up a concern relating to the supply of stone for this project to both yourselves and our local Council member. I was assured I would be kept informed as to what the plans were for the supply of stone for the project but, to date, no further information has been given.</i></p> <p><i>I would like to know what protection will be given to the households living along this road in front of the quarry and what consideration will be given to the transport of materials to the site. As our roads are already in a poor condition, I feel the continuous passage of lorries between the quarry and the site would increase damage to the roads and also be dangerous for other road users. Also we are aware, from past experience, how stone blasting and crushing in the quarry impacts on the lives of people living near the quarry. We have experienced in the past, the noise and dust caused by these procedures.</i></p>		
31	<p><i>Should this being direct investment, the project would play a productive role in regenerating Hoy's economic landscape. I hope funding will be available through a newly established funding distributive body - available as start up grants and continued support for local new business entrants etc. Community funding is often restrictive and limited to voluntary groups, thus failing to tackle the economic stagnation that prevents youths for staying and moving onto the island.</i></p> <p><i>I am happy with the siting, should it not hinder our local tourism industry.</i></p>		
		<i>answered</i>	31
		<i>skipped</i>	3

5. Do you have any suggestions for changes to our proposals for the site?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	23
1	<i>I'm very concerned that there are private developments in the pipeline. I was told by a council member at a consultation that the sites the Council had chosen were the only ones that fit within planning regulations so once taken there would be no room for other developments on Orkney.</i>		
2	<i>How can you tell what your going to make on the project</i>		
3	No		
4	<i>This development can set an approach that respects Hoys Wild Land Area by redrawing the proposed site and removing the single turbine from the Wild Land Area. Scottish Planning Policy at paragraph 215 states when considering whether development in wild land is appropriate "Further consideration will be required to demonstrate that any significant effects on the qualities of these areas can be substantially overcome by siting, design or other mitigation." In this case, significant effects of the intrusion of one turbine into Hoy's Wild Land Area, where there is no other development of an equivalent scale, could be mitigated by removing this single turbine from the Wild Land Area and redrawing the boundary of the proposed site so that it does not cut into Hoy's Wild Land Area. It is significant that there are no other turbines in Hoy's Wild Land Area. Wild Land Areas are characterised by their sensitivity to any form of intrusive human activity and Scottish Planning Policy states, 'they have little or no capacity to accept new development'. Scotland's Wild Land Areas recognise Scotland's finest areas of wild land. They form part of Scotland's distinctive landscape and this is no less the case for Orkney, where qualities of 'awe-inspiring' are repeated throughout Hoy's Wild Land Area description. Orkney Council's proposals, if refined slightly, would uphold the wild qualities of Hoy's Wild Land Area.</i>		
5	<i>Is there not space to have more turbines on the site?</i>		
6	<i>Don't build it!!!!</i>		
7	<i>No. I am not an expert, nor do I live locally so trust that the appropriate process is being followed.</i>		
8	<i>Questions are above</i>		

5. Do you have any suggestions for changes to our proposals for the site?

		Response Percent	Response Total
9	<i>Don't waste any more public money on it.</i>		
10	<i>If the objective is to make money, invest in a project where it will be cheaper and less risky to build, have less impact on protected species, and at a larger and more efficient scale. If the objective is to ensure the transmission cable goes ahead (which seems to be the real motivation), then the cable and associated generation schemes should be assessed as a whole in terms of costs and benefits, and doing so they do not look like good investments.</i>		
11	<i>None, the whole scheme looks fantastic.</i>		
12	<i>Add more turbines.</i>		
13	<i>Scrap the whole plan.</i>		
14	<i>None at this stage.</i>		
15	<i>Local jobs Use local materials, no imported materials Support local businesses</i>		
16	<i>Would it not be better for there to be more turbines here.</i>		
17	<i>One turbine seems to be sited on a designated Scottish Wildland Area. I think this sends a bad message on the necessity to maintain the integrity of conserved areas. It is not something that the OIC should be doing unless absolutely unavoidable. It is not unavoidable here.</i>		

5. Do you have any suggestions for changes to our proposals for the site?

		Response Percent	Response Total
18	<i>It would have been nice to see a few more perhaps sited lower and running up the Ore valley. I have no evidence whatsoever but suspect that higher siting may expose them to very high winds that might mean fewer operating hours whereas siting in the valley might allow them to operate for more hours. It would reduce visual impact too - I suspect that that will be the main objection.</i>		
19	<i>I suggest you don't use the site for a windfarm. The site could be used for a more sustainable project that would better improve the environment, plant some trees maybe? Bring something new to Orkney that people would actually enjoy looking at, a big nature reserve on Hoy would bring tourists in and wouldn't ruin our photos in the way that mammoth wind turbines would.</i>		
20	<i>Yes, refuse consent</i>		
21	<i>I am concerned about the actual size of the turbines, they seem to be massive and overbearing, but at least you have made this clear in your presentations. Personally I think the two turbines closest to Lyness need to be moved back, there is plenty of land further back from Wee Fea. I know this is down to personal perspective but I also think that from looking at your image of the wind farm from Lyness cemetery, that they are disrespectfully close and overbearing considering this is a military war grave. My other concern is the access track to Wee Fea, as it lies besides probably the largest piece of woodland on Hoy...even if it is a bit tatty. My concern is for the health of the trees and the wildlife in this area. Could not a separate access road be built?</i>		
22	<i>As above</i>		
23	<i>I would hope that Lyness would undergo a landscape regeneration, as part of this process. This would boost the appeal of the island.</i>		
		<i>answered</i>	23
		<i>skipped</i>	11

6. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Open-Ended Question	100.00%	20
1	<i>It seems futile to ask the public for their opinion on this project Considering that the Council have already announced the application, regardless of what planning or the public say on it, will be put before Holyrood and will then be simply rubber stamped because it's in the National interest. All very depressing!</i>		
2	<i>Watch the planet of the humans by Micheal Moore on YouTube worth a look then please let me know if it is going to be good for the environment and maybe let it known to the public to make their judgement then</i>		
3	No		
4	<i>Thank you for creating the opportunity to engage with this development at this pre-application stage.</i>		
5	<i>I think this is exactly what the Council should be doing and support the proposals.</i>		
6	<i>The OIC cant even run its graveyards without controversy let alone a project of this size. Show the people one large project that the council has on its own taken right through the whole project and makes a large profit on the project.</i>		
7	<i>Not at this time.</i>		
8	No		
9	<i>There has been no substantial local consultation. Only found out about this form by chance. How did you plan to reach people who do not read the local paper nor read Facebook?</i> <i>The illustrations seem to be deliberately deceptive with respect to the scale of the project.</i>		

6. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

		Response Percent	Response Total
	<i>The investigation of this project has already wasted a substantial amount of money.</i>		
10	<i>In the future you could possibly look into adding battery/energy storage elements at each site to store excess energy, an addition which would add resilience to the local & national energy network should any faults occur on the mainland.</i>		
11	<i>No. I am in full support of wind power.</i>		
12	<i>Agriculture is the backbone of Orkney's economy and society. Look at alternative energies that would put agriculture at the heart of Orkney's energy supply, such as on-farm capture of methane and conversion to clean energy source.</i>		
13	<i>I am surprised that the buffer around residential properties is only 600m. Some responsible wind developers were using 1km twenty years ago, when turbine diameters were less than 50m, and were still dealing with noise complaints from neighbours. There is potential for noise to be a real nuisance, particularly tonal noise from machinery and blade defects. If you stand on Mid Hill in Birsay, looking across to Burgar Hill at a range of about 1500m, it is quite common to hear a repetitive blade tip whistle or the drone of a gearbox in distress. Whilst this is OK (although not a good advert) when passing on a dog walk, I would quite understand a resident at half that range finding it a significant nuisance. To be fair to residents, the planning conditions should (as indicated above) have teeth to curtail noise nuisance. This would then become an operational risk for the project, given the proximity to houses, so careful selection of turbines, negotiation of warranty with the supplier and recognition of the risk in the business case will be important.</i>		
14	<i>The important issue of overall project viability for the OFGEM needs case calculation/inclusion and the infrastructure costs involved in facilitating a means of connection to Finstown are conspicuous by their absence in the presentation of the proposal. These are not side issues that warrant a minor mention - these are important factors that should be discussed openly in detail - particularly when the amount of public money that has been spent to date and indeed will need to be spent going forward to get to a final detailed plan - viable or otherwise.</i>		
15	<i>INVEST IN HOY, AND THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF HOY</i>		
16	<i>I do wonder about how this is all going to be connected to the grid and what that might look like</i>		

6. Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

		Response Percent	Response Total
17	<p><i>The route and nature of the export cables need to be clarified. Although this will be subject to another planing process, I don't see how it is possible to assess these projects in isolation from each other.</i></p> <p><i>I am happy that the necessity for an affected locality community benefit has been accepted. I understand this will be at least £5000 per installed megawatt, index linked, for the lifetime of the project and will be payable regardless of the performance of the windfarm. Also that the locality will be entitled to a shareholder payment under whatever distribution scheme is agreed.</i></p> <p><i>I am still unconvinced of the viability of the proposal, especially given the GSP currently proposed by OFGEM. It is essential that a fully independent financial review is undertaken prior to any FID to establish viability or otherwise. I understand that this will be the case and expect that it will be done in as transparent way as possible, notwithstanding any commercial confidentiality issues.</i></p>		
18	<p><i>This like others is likely to become a paper exercise, a sham to make the public think they are being consulted. I am incensed every day the public are having to pay for fashionable and unnecessary initiatives and Orkneys landscape and infrastructure will be defaced by these ugly erections and the ground destroyed by the access roads and foundation work necessary.</i></p> <p><i>If renewable power is so essential then invest in tidal power, which is non invasive, reliable and easily removed when this fad is over.</i></p> <p><i>Hydro electric power destroyed the Highland for no local benefit and this will be exactly the same.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately this Government is in the pockets of the investors who cannot lose with the financial support of the Government and the protection of compensatory payments when the windmills are idle. This last feature I suspect will happen quits often in Orkney when wind speeds will be too high and the blades will require to be locked.</i></p>		
19	<p><i>The population of Hoy is fragile, it would be good if, as well as providing OIC with income, that Hoy benefited in a way that would help the community and attract more residents.</i></p> <p><i>I feel quite strongly that a flat payment towards schemes on Hoy is not correct, rather it is better that a percentage of the profits from the wind farm goes to Hoy. A fixed sum would depreciate over time whereas a profit percentage would not.</i></p> <p><i>Some areas I think should be considered to benefit the Hoy community are:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Free electricity for all residents over 65</i> <i>2) The culture of Hoy is based around farming and fishing, consequently all farmer and fishing businesses should receive electricity at a discounted level.</i> <i>3) All scheme housing should be upgraded, starting with those at Lyness</i> 		
20	<p><i>As above</i></p>		

Appendix 27 – Email responses to Pre-Application Consultation

Introduction

This Appendix presents the email responses that were received by the Project Officer (Communication and Engagement) during the pre-application consultation process

Response 1

I do not wish to sound negative on the subject of the Wind Development here on Hoy but frankly unless this project is passed by the Scottish Office it will never happen .

I have lived on Hoy all my adult life and been on just about every committee and served at all sorts of developments since I have grown up.

The population is now 70% people moving here from out with these Islands and they do not wish to see anything that detracts from the way Hoy looks at this time . While these people are entitled to their views we do need employment for our young people or the Island will quite simply it will die.

I am very hopeful that this wind farm will get approval and my vote is in its favour .

Response 2

Could you please just clarify a question for me on behalf of Orkney Field Club? Obviously it is difficult to comment on the detail of the project at this stage when there is no EIA, detailed surveys and LVIA available. Can you please confirm whether there will be an opportunity to respond after the application has been submitted and regardless of whether it is to be decided by OIC or SG?

Response 3

Hoy is an island of outstanding beauty and is unique in its geography in Orkney. To create a wind farm on this wild unique environment would be so destructive to this area. Orkney relies on visitors, in particular areas such as Hoy. Creating such significant wind farms in remote and naturally beautiful areas does nothing to encourage visitors to see a blot on the landscape. Who wants a wind farm in their photos? Leave our beautiful islands alone and please stop systematically destroying them. Once it's gone we can't get it back. Orkney will lose its appeal and we will be left with a destroyed landscape to live among. Keep Orkney unique and appealing to visit and live in.

Response 4

The proposed project has sparked quite the argument on the island. So, really, I'm keen to engage more fluently with the proposed project. I'd like to hear what benefits the project would bring to the community. It would be great to hear about developments as they emerge. Really keen to get the community involved. I will help where possible - such potential in a project such as this.

Response 5

I am a resident of Longhope on Hoy, and just wanted to state that I have absolutely no objection to a windfarm anywhere on the island.

I would rather see a few turbines than a power station.

It would also be a bonus if residents on Hoy got a discount on our ever increasing electricity prices.

Response 6

I think this is not a good idea for an island which is a place of outstanding natural beauty. It will not benefit the island or its residents at all.

Off-shore wind farms are much better ways to generate 'green' electricity.

Response 7

I am a resident in Stromness and would like to state my support for wind farms and other low carbon developments in Orkney where we reasonably say there is a low risk to wildlife.

Response 8

Although I live in Edinburgh my strong view is leave your wild natural beautiful places alone. You and all companies like you destroy wherever you step.

Response 9

I have just sent a response survey re the above Wind Farm Project.

Just in case I am too late with my response, I would like to bring the following to your attention:-

My main concern relates to the provision of stone for the foundations and the road to give access to the turbine site. we live approx 100 meters from the entrance to the Witter Quarry. At the last consultation you gave at North Walls School I brought up a concern relating to the supply of stone for this project to both yourselves and our local Council member Magnus Thomson. I was assured I would be kept informed as to what the plans were for the supply of stone for the project, but to date no further information has been given.

I would like to know what protection will be given to the households living along the road in front of the quarry and what consideration will be given to the transport of materials to the site. As our roads are already in a poor condition, I feel the continuous passage of lorries between the quarry and the site would increase damage to the roads and also be dangerous for other road users. We are aware, from past experience, how stone blasting and crushing impacts on the lives of people living near the quarry. We have experienced in the past, the noise and dust caused by these procedures.

I would appreciate, therefore if you could let me know what has been decided re the supply of foundation and road materials for the site and what considerations have been made for the people who will be impacted by this.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Response 10

I watched your online consultation of the proposed Hoy Windfarm. I note the changes to the proposed site since your presentation here on Hoy in September 2019.

Initially I wish to state that I am not in favour of on-shore windfarms due to the visual and environmental impact on the land and skyline. The thought of living with these huge moving constructions, in fairly close proximity, actually fills me with horror. The few smaller windmills already sited on Hoy are not without disturbance from noise (which is carried by the wind direction) and flicker (which is repetitive especially on bright clear days). It is quite detrimental to wellbeing.

As to who I am: I am Hoy born and bred with my parents coming to Lyness, from other areas of Orkney, because of the Naval Base.

My concerns are:-

1. What will the actual benefit be for the island as a whole in relation to the disturbance during installation and then the permanent change on the skyline from these massive windmills should this project come to fruition?
We were told in September 2019 there wouldn't be much employment in the long term therefore we need to be told what benefits are planned for the future of Hoy if this project goes ahead?
2. What will the noise and flicker levels be in the area of our house at North Ness which is not that far from the proposed site especially now that the proposal has been moved further east since your September presentation? The Ore Brae one has a horrid low level irritating noise in certain weather conditions.
3. Will the development decrease the value of properties in the community?
4. What are the guidelines for this development happen so close to two important A listed constructions? The Wea Fea tunnel and Communications Centre?

Notes in relation to paragraphs 3 & 4 - Our house is C listed and we have recently jumped through hoops to renovate the porch at the rear of the house. This porch isn't really seen by anyone except us as there isn't anyone passing as we are in a dead-end before the beach. The next phase is new windows and doors and again we have complied with C listed building regulations and are having them specially made which has double the cost compared with being able to buy modern windows and doors. We have undertaken this work to make our home more comfortable and to add value to it. Have we spent our hard earned savings to perhaps find that the improvements are of little value in the future? It is on this knowledge of listed buildings that I'm interested to know how the regulations stands for A listed buildings having an industrial development sited so close to them. Can windmills really be more or less right above the tunnel and with the communications centre in close proximity? Both are of worldwide interest due to their history.

5. How much peat will be excavated to put in the foundations for windmills of this height? Will that effect the natural habitat of that area of the hill by changing the water table etc.
6. What will be the environmental impact on wildlife? (my concern is the breeding site nearby of red throated divers. They are listed as a Schedule 1 species under The Wildlife and

Countryside Act. The red-throated diver is a species vulnerable to disturbance and water-level changes.)

7. If the project goes ahead will locals suffer from an over stretched ferry service during the construction period?

I don't do skype or other media 'stuff' therefore the consultation done this way was quite difficult for me to access and follow. Making comments during these unreal times of Covid-19, has been difficult. Life is very isolated just now and it is hard to think out of the lockdown bubble to see what might be normal for us in the future.

Appendix 28 – Response from North Walls school pupils

Introduction

This Appendix presents a group consultation response received from the pupils at North Walls Community School.

Feedback from Class 2 North Walls Community School

Yes	1
No	2
Maybe	2

Positive aspects of the projects

More money for council

Helps the planet

Healthy for the planet

Would help Kirkwall

Help council for money

Be quicker because they are taller

Free power

Cheaper to run

Income for the council/island

Big cable for Orkney

Turbines can be removed when no longer used

Negative aspects of the projects

Might annoy people

Too big

Block people's view

Ruin the view

A lot of noise

Not look nice

People complaining

Lots of noise

Wildlife might not like it and move

Waste of money as we already have power

Disturbance of wildlife

Traffic

Noise

Damage to landscape

Challenges

Get smaller ones – so you can get more

Take it to another island

Paint them black so people won't see them as easily – maybe the colour of the hill

Appendix 29 – Feedback received at virtual event

Introduction

This appendix describes the format of the virtual event held on 28th May 2020 and details the feedback received by participants.

Format of virtual event

The virtual event was held via Zoom, a video-conferencing platform. The emergency Scottish Government legislation said that participants should **not** be effectively required to join or sign-up to a particular website/forum to access the information (for example, a social media platform) and it was felt that Zoom provided for these requirements.

A meeting link was posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/HoyPAC providing easy access to the event. Project team members were on hand to talk through the project with those who logged on to the event, with the information boards displayed through screen-sharing.

Engagement with attendees

Attendees were welcomed to the event by the Project Officer (Communications and Engagement) with the project team then running through the information boards that would have been displayed at a face to face event (see Appendix 20).

Those who attended the event were engaged with the process and through the technology that had been deployed were able to put their question and concerns to the project team in the same way that they would have done at a face to face event. A number of questions were raised, the details to which are covered elsewhere in the EIA documents. Attendees were also provided with a link to the online questionnaire, with all who attended taking up this offer. Their responses are therefore captured at Appendix 26.

Key questions

The key concerns raised at the event were:

- Where will the cable for the development come into?
- What will the ongoing costs be for maintenance and care of the turbines and who will be responsible for this?
- Has the visual impact been considered?
- What is the developer basing their project costs on?
- Is there a likely wake effect on the community turbine?
- What are the noise impacts likely to be?

Appendix 30 – Full response to consultees requesting specific information

Introduction

This appendix presents The Applicants responses to specific questions that were received via email to the Project Officer (Communications and Engagement).

Response 1

How much of the £2 million profit OIC has suggested will be possible will end up on Hoy?

The profit from the project will be utilised to provide services and community benefit to the whole of Orkney including Hoy. The Council has also agreed that there will be a location-specific community benefit payment made to communities most impacted by the proposed developments. The Council has also agreed to follow Scottish Government best practice guidelines for the location specific community benefit fund which suggests a figure of £5,000 per MW per annum. We will consult with the community separately to determine how this funding should be dispersed.

Is there a guaranteed annual community benefit proposed in line with OIC planning policy. (This states at least £5,000 p/a per installed megawatt...so should be at least £140K).

The community benefit fund will be in line with government guidance, providing £5,000 per MW per annum into a location specific community benefit fund. The exact figure will be dependent on the installed capacity.

How many full or part time permanent jobs will there be on Hoy?

At this stage in the design it is not possible to specify how many full time or part time jobs the project will create in Hoy, but as a guide based on work undertaken for Orkney's Community Wind farm – Quanterness (a development of similar scale to Orkney's Community Wind Farm – Hoy), we estimate that the construction and development phase could support £2.6 million GVA and 39 jobs in Orkney and £10.4 million GVA and 161 jobs in Scotland. During operation the project could have an annual impact of £0.3 million GVA and four jobs in Orkney and £0.5 million GVA and nine jobs in Scotland. These figures will be investigated in more detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the Hoy project.

How will local, business, tourists and construction related travel be accommodated on the ferry.

We are very aware of the critical importance of the life-line ferry service to Lyness and as such are actively investigating what action we can take to minimise the potential for any impact. There is however likely to be an increase in traffic during the construction phase of the project and an assessment of the likely impacts will be included in a traffic and transport impact assessment within the overall Environmental Impact Assessment.

As part of this assessment it is likely that several mitigating measures will be agreed to reduce the potential impact to other road and ferry users. These are likely to include;

- If the project gains consent then prior to construction works commencing a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared for agreement with Orkney Islands Council.

- To ensure that there are no detrimental issues at Lyness, a Port Management Plan will be produced and secured by planning condition that will be agreed prior to the delivery of the first turbine component
- All abnormal load deliveries will be undertaken at appropriate times (to be discussed and agreed with the relevant roads authorities and police) with the aim to minimise the effect on the local road network.
- To avoid impacts on ferry traffic, no abnormal loads will be moved within 30 minutes of a ferry arrival or departure. This will allow unimpeded access to the ferry terminal for other road users.
- Information on the turbine convoys will be provided to local media outlets such as local papers and local radio to help assist the public

What mitigation will be possible to deal with unacceptable noise issues in Lyness and it's locality, my disability really has issue with not being able to filter out noise. Our home faces the site.

A full and detailed noise impact assessment is being undertaken as part of the EIA process. The design would ensure that the proposed wind farm could meet limits that would be set under the UK guidance on wind farm noise. Should planning permission be obtained, adherence to those limits throughout the life of the developments would be secured via detailed planning conditions. Any potential exceedances will be appropriately mitigated. As a rough guideline, and taking account of the cumulative effect of noise from several turbines, we would not expect an noise exceedances at properties beyond 600-700m from the nearest turbine. Your property is 1600m from the nearest turbine and so any noise would be significantly below legal limits.

What fallout of flicker will affect our home, my disability really has issue with strobe lighting and sun glare. Our home faces the site.

A dedicated shadow flicker impact assessment will be undertaken and the guidance states that outwith ten rotor diameters from each turbine, shadow flicker should not be a problem. 10 rotor diameters (based on the largest rotor being considered) is 1,360m and the intensity of shadow reduces with distance. We would not expect shadow flicker to be a significant issue at the majority of locations within this area. If the potential for shadow flicker nuisance is identified then appropriate mitigation will be implemented.

Regarding the original capacity study....how did you get from that study to now? I appreciate it may well be out of date so what has replaced it and when? Can we have a copy of the one you are now working from.

The original 30 turbine proposal was based on a preliminary feasibility study, which provided an indication of the potential capacity the site could accommodate, this was before any in depth site surveys had been performed. The current design has been determined having completed a full detailed assessment of the impacts to the site and the surrounding area. We are in the process of drafting the EIA which will provide details of all the studies performed, this will be available to the public once it is complete and the application has been submitted.

If you are referring to the landscape capacity assessment that was undertaken by OIC planners some time ago then that document was only ever guidance. The weighting that should be applied to that guidance was a matter of debate in the recent Hoolan Energy applications for wind farms at Hesta Head and Costa head. Those applications went to Scottish Ministers with the government reporter outlining criticism of the landscape capacity assessment which provides strong argument to reduce the weight that should be applied to its findings. The overall position of planning applications is that the positives and negatives must be balanced together to form a decision and the only complete no-

go area for development is the national scenic area (which covers much of Hoy and the West Mainland). You can find all the planning policy documents on the Council website.

How they you going to export the power from Hoy. Is there a plan and can we have the details.

The likely connection point for this project will be via a substation on Hoy and then to Finstown Grid Supply Point. However, it is too early in the design process to be have any clarity on what options may be available. SSEN will undertake a study to determine the least cost technically possible solution to connect to the grid. The grid connection element of this project will be subject to a separate planning application.

What plans are there to manage haulage, cranes etc to the potential site our roads are not wide enough, the boats not big enough for the scale of cranes you would need to erect these size of wind mills.

A detailed traffic and transport assessment will be undertaken as part of the site design, this will include a method statement for transporting equipment to and from site, to ensure minimal impacts on the surrounding environment and users. We are acutely aware of the importance of the ferry for the local community and a key consideration in the assessment will be in minimising the impact on the ferry. For example, we have been discussing how to access as much material as we can from Hoy, using specialist vessels to deliver bulk materials and turbine components, and use of separate shuttle busses in Houton and Lyness for construction workers to avoid booking vehicles on the boat.

The main roads that will be used during the transport of turbine components are capable of accommodating regular HGV traffic as a result of their road width and geometry. As the access track to Wee Fea is currently not suited to HGV traffic given its width, poor road surface condition this road will be upgraded.

What are the developers going to do to compensate businesses for loss of tourist trade, (Emily's Ice Cream Parlour and Tearooms face this proposed site) from tourists who will not come due to a wind farm being the first thing they see and secondly the congestion on the ferry's to accommodate haulage etc when tourist who would come cant get on the boat?

There have been several studies of the potential effect of wind farms on tourism, and the findings have indicated that the overall effect on tourism are very limited. Tourism and recreation impacts will be considered in detail in the Environmental Impact Assessment where, if required, any mitigation measures will be outlined.

Has any study been done to get some idea of how the tourist trade will be affected due to this development. Not only during the build period but the concept of a wind farm where tourists, mainly bird watchers and those interested in war time history, come to see those interested and what their feelings would be about seeing a wind farm.

See answer to the above question. We do hope that the new road infrastructure will provide better access to areas of wild land which could be a positive for tourists. Turbines themselves can also become a visitor attraction.

The original plan showed the wind farm to be many more turbines and in a different place to this latest proposal why has it moved even closer to wee fee?

The original capacity was based on a preliminary feasibility study, which provided an indication of the potential capacity the site could accommodate, this was before any in-depth site surveys had been

performed. The current design has been determined having completed a full detailed assessment of the impacts to the site and the surrounding area. Having incorporated the findings from the site surveys the most appropriate layout was having the turbines closer to Wee Fea. The current design is quite similar to the 7-turbine design that was outlined at public events in Hoy last year.

Who would be responsible for decommissioning costs for the project?

In the event of decommissioning the wind farm owner would be responsible for agreeing a decommissioning plan with the local planning authority and covering the costs.

If there's anything further – you want something explained again or have another question for example – please do not hesitate to contact us.

Response 2

What will the actual benefit be for the island as a whole in relation to the disturbance during installation and then the permanent change on the skyline from these massive windmills should this project come to fruition? We were told in September 2019 there wouldn't be much employment in the long term therefore we need to be told what benefits are planned for the future of Hoy if this project goes ahead?

The Council has committed to following Scottish Government best practice guidelines for community benefit. Those guidelines recommend a location-specific community benefit figure of £5000 per MW installed per annum. If the proposed development goes ahead as designed at present that would equate to £140,000 per year, or £3.5 million over a 25 year period.

We will be consulting on the location specific community benefit payments separately and we would welcome your involvement in that process.

In addition to the location specific payment, the profits from the Hoy project, and any other project successfully developed under Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project (currently Quanterness and Faray) would be used for the benefit of Orkney and its inhabitants. Hoy would have the same opportunity as any other area to benefit from this money as well.

What will the noise and flicker levels be in the area of our house at North Ness which is not that far from the proposed site especially now that the proposal has been moved further east since your September presentation? The Ore Brae one has a horrid low level irritating noise in certain weather conditions.

On shadow flicker:

The guidance on shadow flicker states that the area within 130 degrees either side of north from the turbine, and out to 10 rotor diameters, is considered acceptable for shadow flicker assessment.

10 rotor diameters (based on the largest rotor being considered) is 1,360m. North Ness is c.2.9km (21 rotor diameters) from the nearest turbine (based on the current layout) and is situated greater than 130 degrees from north from this turbine.

Therefore, at c.1,540m beyond the recognised acceptable study area for shadow flicker and orientated outwith 130 degrees from north from this turbine, we don't expect shadow flicker to be a significant issue at North Ness.

On noise:

North Ness is relatively remote from the project and is at the outer extent of the noise study area. Noise levels at this property will be comfortably below the applicable daytime and night-time noise limits.

The noise from the turbines would be at its greatest over a similar range of wind directions to the existing Hoy Community turbine. The level of wind turbine noise at North Ness may therefore increase slightly under north-westerly conditions, but the frequency of occurrence and duration of noise effects would remain similar.

Will the development decrease the value of properties in the community?

We've provided a link below to a 2016 report which investigated any link between house prices and wind farms. It found no evidence of a consistent negative effect on house prices. This perhaps makes sense given that support for onshore wind within the population sits at 77% - we've provided a link for this report too.

https://www.climatechange.org.uk/media/1359/cxc_wind_farms_impact_on_house_prices_final_17_oct_2016.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/884028/BEIS_PAT_W33_-_Key_findings_Final_.pdf

What are the guidelines for this development happen so close to two important A listed constructions? The Wea Fea tunnel and Communications Centre?

The potential for impacts on cultural heritage assets has been an important consideration through the design process and is one that will be fully assessed within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that will accompany any future planning application.

How much peat will be excavated to put in the foundations for windmills of this height? Will that effect the natural habitat of that area of the hill by changing the water table etc.

A comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts on geology, peat, hydrology and hydrogeology will be undertaken as part of the EIA. We will also look to provide clear information about the whole life carbon balance of the proposed development and provide a context for the carbon payback.

What will be the environmental impact on wildlife? (my concern is the breeding site nearby of red throated divers. They are listed as a Schedule 1 species under The Wildlife and Countryside Act. The red-throated diver is a species vulnerable to disturbance and water-level changes.)

An extensive range of field studies have been undertaken between 2018 and 2020 with the information collected through these surveys playing an important role in the current site design. The potential for significant ornithological effects will be fully assessed within the EIA that would accompany any future planning application.

If the project goes ahead will locals suffer from an over stretched ferry service during the construction period?

We are very aware of the importance of the lifeline ferry service to Hoy and of the issues experienced with construction work on Flotta in recent years. Our project team has been told to do whatever possible to avoid the need to use the ferry for the project. This will be reflected in the 'Traffic and

Transport' chapter of the EIA to accompany the planning application for the project. If built the windfarm components are likely to be delivered by specialist vessel to Lyness.

I wish to make further comment about the 'test mast' up Wea Fea which blocked our peat bank and put a sudden end to peat cutting for my husband.

From discussions with the contractor who installed the met mast they are sure that access can still be gained to the peat bank. Due to the current restrictions, we have not been able to access the site to check this ourselves. We have no problem with you using the access track as long as this doesn't interfere with the mast or its supports.

My main concern relates to the provision of stone for the foundations and the road to give access to the turbine site. We live approx 100 meters from the entrance to the Witter Quarry. At the last consultation you gave at North Walls School I brought up a concern relating to the supply of stone for this project to both yourselves and our local Councillor. I was assured I would be kept informed as to what the plans were for the supply of stone for the project, but to date no further information has been given.

I would like to know what protection will be given to the households living along the road in front of the quarry and what consideration will be given to the transport of materials to the site. As our roads are already in a poor condition, I feel the continuous passage of lorries between the quarry and the site would increase damage to the roads and also be dangerous for other road users. We are aware, from past experience, how stone blasting and crushing impacts on the lives of people living near the quarry. We have experienced in the past, the noise and dust caused by these procedures.

I would appreciate, therefore if you could let me know what has been decided re the supply of foundation and road materials for the site and what considerations have been made for the people who will be impacted by this.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

We do not yet have any definite plans for supply of stone for the project. Indications based on our latest design are that the vast majority of stone would be won on-site, so there should be little or no need to source stone from elsewhere.

However it is possible that we will need some stone from elsewhere, particularly for early upgrading works to the tracks leading to the site. We will probably look to keep the use a local quarry on Hoy (such as Witter Quarry) as an option for that, alongside the option of importing stone from Orkney or Scottish Mainland (which, depending on quantity, may be the more straightforward option). If we were to seek to use Witter Quarry then that would require a completely separate planning application to open the quarry, which would take account of noise and dust etc. If we did that then our needs from that quarry would likely be limited to a period of months.

We appreciate that is not exactly what you want to hear but it is an honest assessment of the current situation based on our role of ensuring that there are sufficient options available to make construction of the Hoy project practical. The exact stance to be taken will be firmed up in the Environmental Impact Assessment to be submitted as part of the planning application, but we don't expect it to be substantially different to what we have outlined here.

In terms of the potential for damage to roads the EIA will include a statement confirming that the we will cover the cost of abnormal wear and tear on roads not designed for that purpose and will propose that this is imposed by a planning condition.

Appendix 31 - Response to John Muir Trust

Introduction

This Appendix presents the additional information that was supplied to the management team of the John Muir Trust following a video conference.

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Hoy



Strategic Projects Team
Orkney Islands Council
www.orkney.gov.uk

Contents

Introduction	2
What is Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project?	3
Why was Hoy selected as a site?	4
Map A - Location of developments.....	5
How has the Hoy project developed as studies have been carried out?	6
Why is there a turbine in Wild Land?.....	7
Map B - Location of turbines and site constraints	9
What is the likely effect on the Wild Land area?	10
Appendix A – Visualisations	11

More information on the project is available at www.orkney.gov.uk/orkneys-community-wind-farm-project, and on our project Facebook page 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project'.

If you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact us on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or phone 07818 508 323.

Introduction

Orkney Islands Council is developing 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project', which aims to build windfarms in Orkney to generate profit to be used for the benefit of Orkney and its inhabitants

The project includes three sites, one of which has a turbine within land designated as 'Wild Land' on the island of Hoy.

A consultation response by the John Muir Trust, raising concerns about the siting of this turbine, was received during the pre-application process for the Hoy project.

Subsequently, this document has been produced by the project team to help provide further information on the project to members of the Trust, in advance of the planning application being submitted later this year.

The project team has taken every effort to reduce the impact on Wild Land for the project, having reduced the scale of development on Hoy from 30 turbines, (12 of which were in Wild Land), to six (one of which is in Wild Land).

Having been in dialogue on this issue with the John Muir Trust, and recognising the concerns that have been raised, our position remains that we require to keep one turbine just within the Wild Land Area (WLA).

We have explored the reasons for this in this document, as well as providing information on why we are looking to develop these projects. The key points to note are that:

- There are additional costs from developing in remote locations both from a construction and grid connection perspective, and the charging regime for using the National Grid is higher in Orkney than elsewhere. Our financial modelling shows that we need six turbines on site to give us a chance of having an economically viable project.
- SNH recognises that the Wild Land qualities in the south-east part of the Hoy WLA are notably weaker than in other parts of the WLA. SNH state that *"Here, even though there is a strong sense of solitude because of few visitors, the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary is diminished by the cumulative effects of sheep grazing and views out to the east and south to elements outside the WLA. These include the prominent mast, service buildings and powerlines on Binga Fea (including lights at night), the wind turbine near Lyness and the Haldale water treatment buildings and track, as well as more distant elements, including boats, fish farms and the wind turbine and industrial development on Flotta."*
- We need the scale of project proposed to maximise our chances of meeting the conditional Needs Case as set out by Ofgem to justify the new electricity interconnector for Orkney - without which the project cannot go ahead. The Needs Case says that we need a total of 135MW of new wind generation in Orkney with planning permission, a grid connection, and passing a financial audit, by a deadline of the end of 2021. This is a very challenging target but one which, recognising the potential benefits for the islands, the Council has committed to trying to achieve.

What is Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project?

'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' is being developed for the benefit of local communities in Orkney.

It includes three potential wind farm sites – one in Hoy in the area around Wee Fea, another on Faray in the North Isles and one at Quanterness in St Ola. At this stage, each site has the potential capacity for six turbines at approximately 150m and a generating capacity of 28MW. If the proposed sites are found through the planning process to be appropriate and the project goes forward, there are multiple community benefits to be gained from a council owned wind farm project.

The project aims to;

- generate income from publicly owned wind farm projects to support services in the local community and deliver community benefit;
- support the Ofgem approved conditional Needs Case for a new interconnector for Orkney, which could open up wider economic benefits by enabling further opportunities within Orkney's energy industry; and
- make sure that, if we have a new cable, as much of the benefits as possible stick within Orkney. The best way of doing that is to have local ownership which benefits everybody, not just the shareholders.

As described above, one of the key aims of the project is to generate additional income and to essentially use that money to deliver community benefit in various ways.

As a local authority we have significant issues around continually reducing budgets coupled with increasing demand for public services. Additional income from Orkney's Community Wind Farm project could make a big difference to that and to people's lives in Orkney as all profits would remain in Orkney, helping preserve and enhance key services, like social care, education and transport – rather than that income going to shareholders.

The issue of a direct community benefit payment has been raised frequently with the project team at previous public events. Since then, in September last year, the Council has agreed on some guiding principles for community benefit from the project;

- The key purpose of Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project is to generate profit to be used for the benefit of the people of Orkney.
- This will be done via a 'Community Fund' to be used in the interests of Orkney and its inhabitants.
- The project will be financed in such a way that we can achieve profit which can be used for community benefit as soon as reasonably practicable.
- It won't be possible for private individuals to take a shareholding in any project.
- As the communities located closest to projects will be impacted most by developments these communities will get a 'location-specific community benefit payment'.

The exact way in which 'location-specific community benefit payment' will be delivered has not been decided. We'll be running a public consultation exercise on this later this year.

Why was Hoy selected as a site?

At public events on the project, we regularly get asked about why we have selected the three sites we have and indeed why we haven't selected other potential sites.

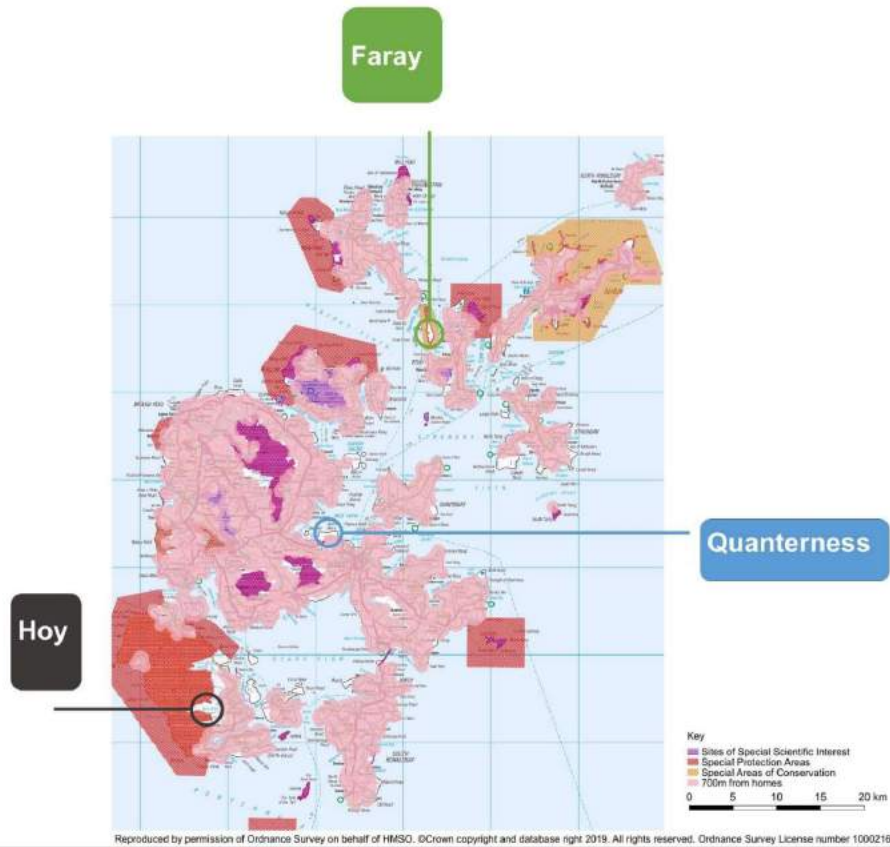
We went through a rigorous process in selecting sites that we felt offered sufficient scale to be economically viable and have a reasonable chance of gaining consent.

On Map A, a map of Orkney, on the following page, we've indicated in pink a 700m buffer around all residential properties. These are areas that are likely to be unsuitable for development.

We have also in the hatched areas superimposed all the internationally designated areas in Orkney, where it would also be highly unlikely that consent could be achieved.

That leaves a number of white patches on the map. These were investigated further in terms of whether they offered sufficient scale for a project and were ruled in or out for a number of reasons. We then whittled our list down to what we see as our three best options – Hoy, Faray and Quanterness.

Map A - Location of developments



How has the Hoy project developed as studies have been carried out?

Hoy is the largest of the three sites and was originally chosen as the largest area away from homes and designated sites.

The site lies at and to the south of Wee Fea, the hill behind Lyness which contains underground wartime oil tanks.

It is situated on the south-east of the island of Hoy and comprises moorland with coastal pastures in the east and south. Habitats of a similar nature to the site are present north of the site, with glaciated hill and valleys in a small section in the northwest of the island.

There are several small burns, namely the Burn of Ore, which flows east-west through the site, as well as the Burn of Longigill flowing north-south in the north-central site area. There are other small unnamed watercourses on site as shown on OS mapping and observed from site visits.

Initial base studies suggested there was the potential for up to 30 turbines – with this proposal presented to the community at a public meeting in April 2018.

Feedback during the first season of ornithological surveys indicated that the southern half of the site (as defined at that time) was less suitable than the north and that it would be necessary to reduce the number of turbines being proposed in order to avoid potentially unacceptable effects on ornithology in the area.

The site boundary was extended to the north, and the number of turbines was reduced from 30 to seven. This was further reduced to six, following detailed analysis of the extensive survey data that has been collected over the last couple of years.

As well as reducing the number of turbines, we have also made them taller.

The scale of turbines (tip height and rotor diameter) for the majority of wind energy projects being proposed and progressed in the UK is increasing. Turbine models limited to 125 m tip height are becoming rarer, as larger turbines are being proposed to optimise generation and ensure financial viability of developments, following changes to government support mechanisms for onshore wind.

It was felt that, by the time our development would be ready for construction, it may be difficult to obtain 125 m turbines and the availability of turbine models could be highly restrictive. Consideration was therefore given to an increased tip height, up to 149.9 m, remaining below the threshold requiring aviation lighting, but providing greater flexibility in turbine choice, and greater renewable energy generation potential.

The layout has also been designed to ensure that it appears as a compact and well-contained feature in surrounding views, with care taken to avoid any turbines appearing as 'outliers'. The number of turbines within the WLA has been reduced to one.

Map B on Page 9 shows the initial seven turbine locations marked as grey triangles and the current six turbine locations as black circles.

Why is there a turbine in Wild Land?

On Map B on Page 9 you'll see that T4 is in Wild Land. Every effort was made to keep turbines out of Wild Land, however due to other site constraints this has not been possible.

We have plotted a number of the site constraints on Map B and described them below. Please note that we are not permitted to widely share information relating to protected species and as such Map B does not illustrate how ornithology has played an important role in the site design process.

There are a number of factors to consider when analysing the potential impact on the local area from a wind farm development. All these aspects have to be taken into consideration when deciding where in the site the turbines should be placed.

These factors include:

Landscape and Visual impact - An important element of any development like this is to consider what the visual impact of these large turbines will be on the landscape. As part of the assessment we have undertaken a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which has fed into the siting of the turbines and we have maintained an acceptable distance from residential properties.

Ecology and Ornithology - As wind farm developments can affect wildlife and birds during construction and operation, the potential impacts on them have been a key component of the design process. The surveys we have carried out have influenced the turbine locations. To reduce the potential impacts, turbines have been moved further away from the natural heritage sites to the west. During the analysis, our team have consulted closely with Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure best practices are followed.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage - In and around the site there are several wartime heritage assets, this includes the underground fuel tanks and the formal naval headquarters at Lyness. The siting of turbines has considered the potential impacts on these and this will be addressed in the EIA.

The avoidance of any exceptionally deep peatland areas - The locations where deepest peat has recorded have been avoided wherever possible, within the confines of other constraints. It has not however been possible to entirely avoid areas of deep peat (>1 m depth) given its distribution across the site and the presence of numerous other constraints. However, siting of turbines on deep peat has been avoided or minimised as far as practically possible, and peat slide risk has been minimised.

Other aspects that have had an effect on the placing of the turbines are:

- The location of telecommunications links in the area.
- Ensuring an adequate distance from any watercourses in the area.
- Turbine separation distances.
- Physical constraints, such as slopes.

We're also unable to drop down to five turbines for two reasons:

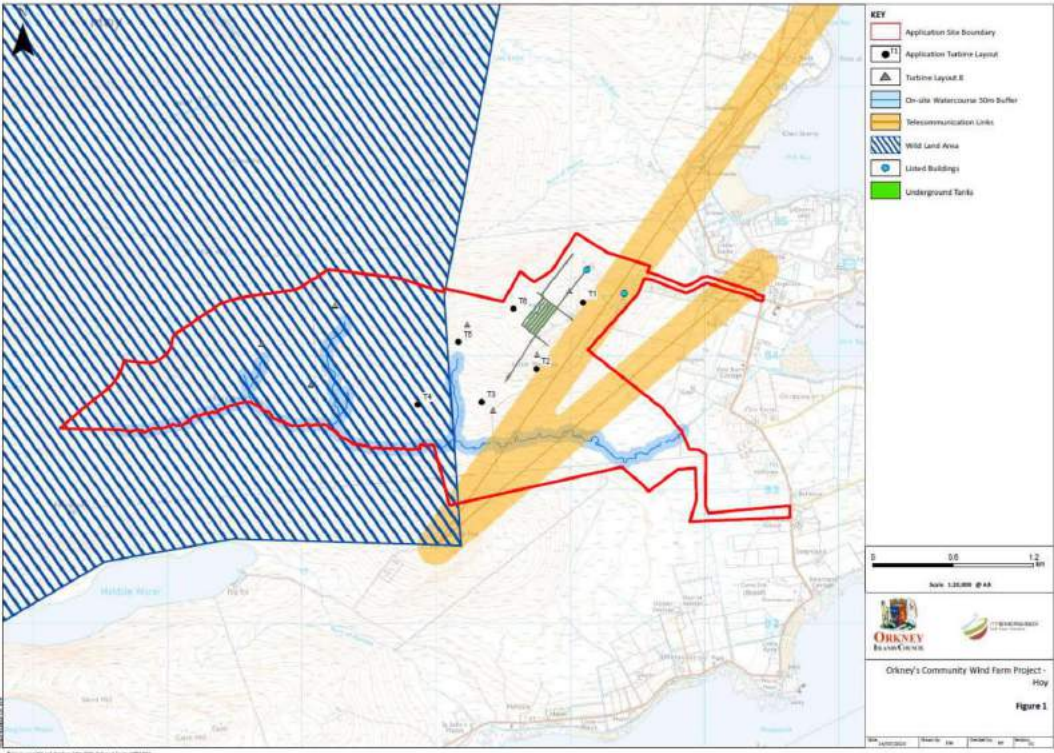
- Firstly, there are additional costs from developing in remote locations, and the charging regime for using the national grid is higher in Orkney than elsewhere, which our financial modelling shows means that we need a sixth turbine to give us a reasonable chance of having an economically viable project

7

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Hoy

- Secondly, to maximise our chances of having the scale of project required to meet the conditional Needs Case as set out by Ofgem to justify the new electricity interconnector for Orkney - without which the project cannot go ahead. The Needs Case says that we need a total of 135MW of new wind generation in Orkney with planning permission, a grid connection, and passing a financial audit, by a deadline of the end of 2021.

Map B - Location of turbines and site constraints



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Hoy

What is the likely effect on the Wild Land area?

Optimised Environments (OPEN) have produced a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the proposed development. The LVIA contains an Appendix which presents a detailed assessment of the potential effects of the proposed development on the Hoy Wild Land Area (WLA).

The assessment follows guidance set out in SNH's draft version of 'Assessing Impacts on Wild Land Technical Guidance' (2017). The assessment also refers to SNH's published description of the Hoy WLA (41) which sets out the Wild Land Qualities (WLQs) which make this WLA unique. The description has provided the basis for the assessment and has been supplemented through site work across several parts of the WLA.

The mapping of the current WLAs originated from SNH's datasets of the five physical attributes of Wild Land, namely; a high degree of perceived naturalness; the lack of any modern artefacts or structures; little evidence of contemporary human uses of the land; rugged, or otherwise physically challenging; and remoteness and/or inaccessibility.

These maps show that these attributes are mostly weakest in the south-east corner of the Hoy WLA. As set out in SNH's description, these lower ratings of wildness relate to a number of existing features. Following on from a description of the WLQs which project a sense of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary across much of the WLA, the following statement is made.

"The only exception to these conditions occurs within the southern third of the WLA. Here, even though there is a strong sense of solitude because of few visitors, the sense of naturalness, remoteness and sanctuary is diminished by the cumulative effects of sheep grazing and views out to the east and south to elements outside the WLA. These include the prominent mast, service buildings and powerlines on Binga Fea (including lights at night), the wind turbine near Lyness and the Heldale water treatment buildings and track, as well as more distant elements, including boats, fish farms and the wind turbine and industrial development on Flotta."

The effects of the proposed development on the sense of remoteness, solitude and sanctuary is assessed in detail in the assessment, especially in respect of the sensitivity of development encroaching around the margins. The above extract, however, highlights the reasoning behind the proposed development being located on this south-eastern side, where the wildness qualities are lessened largely due to existing influences from human artefacts and land uses.

In terms of the location of T4 within the WLA boundary, while this will give rise to direct effects on the physical attributes of the WLA, these will occur across a very localised part of the least sensitive boundary edge.

In terms of the visual effect within the interior of the WLA, T4 will typically have a lesser effect than the other turbines owing to its slightly lower base elevation. The detailed assessment has used a number of viewpoints dispersed across the Hoy WLA to represent the strength of wildness qualities experienced in the more remote parts. Associated visualisations, including mostly wirelines have been used to help determine the potential magnitude of change as a result of the proposed development.

Visualisations for the project have been provided in Appendix A. These are representative of visual receptors in the surrounding area.

10

Appendix A – Visualisations

In order to assess the potential visual effects of the proposed wind farm at Hoy we have selected a number of viewpoints to represent the views of residents, road users, walkers and ferry passengers both in the local and wider area

Five of the viewpoints are presented in the consultation document. Each slide comprises a photomontage to represent how the view will be changed by the proposed development.

Lyness Cemetery - The first viewpoint is taken from the Lyness Naval Cemetery and was selected to represent the views of visitors to the cemetery, as well as road users on the B9046. The view looks south west towards Wee Fea and would be located at just over 1km to the closest turbine. While all six turbines would be visible, they would all be partly screened by the ridge line of Wee Fea, apart from the two closest turbines which would be seen at their full height.

North Walls School - The second viewpoint is located at North Walls School on the B9047 south of Lyness. It has been selected to represent the views of people at the school as well as road users and local residents. The view looks north-west towards Wee Fea at just over 2km to the closest turbine. The school faces south to catch the scenic views towards South Walls, it also opens up across the hills towards the west and north where the proposed development can be seen to its full extent. This view also includes the existing single turbine at Ore Brae, set at the base of the hill to the right of the proposed turbines.

Longhope - The third viewpoint is located in the village of Longhope on the north coast of South Walls. It has been selected to represent the views of residents, as well as road users on the B9047 which passes through the village. The natural view from Longhope is north across the water. The key feature is the low moorland hills upon which the proposed development which would be situated. The closest turbine is a distance of 3.5km. All six turbines would be visible, seen set across the hill slopes of Wee Fea and west into the valley of the Ore Burn. The existing Ore Brae turbine is visible in the right of the photo.

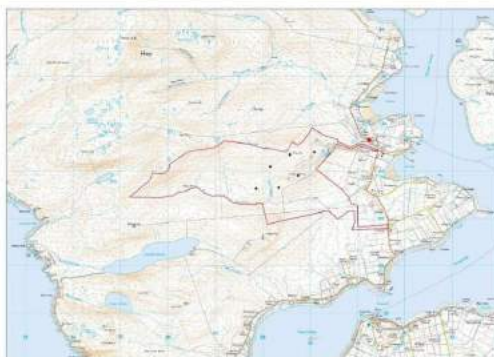
View from the ferry - The fourth viewpoint is located on the Houton to Lyness ferry as it passes through the sound, with Hoy to the west and Fara to the east. It has been selected to represent the views of passengers on the ferry traveling to and from Hoy. The view looks south west across Hoy's eastern coastline towards Wee Fea where the closest turbine would be a distance of 3.5km away. While all six turbines would be visible only two would be visible to their full extent, while the other four would be partly screened by the ridge line of Wee Fea.

Orphir - The fifth viewpoint is located on the western edge of the village of Orphir on the mainland of Orkney. It has been selected to represent the views of road users on the A964 and residents in the village of Orphir and the surrounding rural area. Views are mostly orientated south east over Scapa Flow to South Ronaldsay and south towards Flotta. They also extend south east towards Hoy and it is in this direction the proposed development is seen at a distance of 12.5km. From this longer range the turbines would appear as relatively small scale and distant features, occupying a much smaller proportion of the open view of Scapa Flow. They would be seen associated with the much lower moorland hills to the south of the island, separate to the higher hills in the north.

View from Lyness Naval Cemetery



OS reference: 330246, 994657
Eye level: 19.5 m AOD
Direction of view: 251°
Nearest turbine: 1.18 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



View from North Walls School



OS reference: 330644, 992695
Eye level: 24.2 m AOD
Direction of view: 304°
Nearest turbine: 2.25 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



View from Longhope on South Walls



OS reference: 330359, 990869
Eye level: 12.6 m AOD
Direction of view: 329°
Nearest turbine: 3.43 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)





View from Houton to Lyness Ferry



OS reference: 331661, 996744
Eye level: 4.5 m AOD
Direction of view: 229°
Nearest turbine: 3.48 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



View from Orphir



OS reference: 334009, 1005850
Eye level: 46.1 m AOD
Direction of view: 205°
Nearest turbine: 12.46 km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Appendix 32 – Analysis against the 7 National Standards for Community Engagement and SP=EED

Introduction

This Appendix contains tables outlining analysis of the consultation process undertaken against the seven National Standards for Community Engagement as set out in PAN 3/2016 and SP=EED (Scottish Planning=Effective Engagement and Delivery). We have included examples to demonstrate how we have achieved the level and standard

7 National Standards for Community Engagement Evaluation

Standard	Description	Description
Inclusion	We will identify and involve the people and organisations that are affected by the focus of the engagement.	<p>The Applicant identified statutory and other key stakeholders and agreed with Orkney Island Council (OIC) a list of those stakeholders with whom they should engage, as recorded in the PAN and associated acknowledgement notice included as Appendix 1.</p> <p>Two public events were held within the community in April 2018 and January 2019 respectively. These were held at an early stage in the project, in order to ensure the community were aware of the project as soon as practicably possible</p> <p>Public exhibitions were also held in four other locations across Orkney in May and June 2019. Additional drop in sessions for OIC staff not directly involved with the project were held in August 2019.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed in agreement with OIC which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request.</p> <p>At all but one of the events, feedback was gathered which has subsequently impacted on the final design of the project.</p>
Support	We will identify and overcome any barriers to participation	<p>The Applicant understands the need to help all individuals and groups engage. For all attendees at the public exhibitions in January 2019 and May/June/August 2019, staff were made available on a 1:1 basis to communicate information on the visual and information boards. Attendees with literacy issues were supported in completing their feedback forms.</p> <p>Public exhibitions were held in venues that were accessible to everyone in the community and took place across a range of dates and times (afternoon and evening, 19:00 – 21:00) to suit as many people as possible, including those in full time employment. The public</p>

Standard	Description	Description
		<p>exhibitions were deliberately arranged to avoid the school holidays and any major public events.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request. The project team were extremely flexible in their approach to this consultation, making themselves available for consultation at times and channels that suited the consultee.</p> <p>A video presentation and plain English written guide were produced for the display boards to aid understanding.</p> <p>During the consultation events the Applicant discussed the scope and limitations of the planning system and the relative merits and disadvantages of the Proposed Development in a clear and fair way.</p> <p>Feedback was requested and our consultants made clear that public opinions would be recognised, assessed and included as appropriate in the assessment.</p>
Planning	There is a clear purpose for the engagement which is based on a shared understanding of community needs and ambitions	<p>The Applicant clearly set out the methods to be used for engagement at the start of the process. The engagement process took place over many months with the local community as the project developed and clearly set out what the purpose and scope of the engagement was.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed with reference to the emergency legislation passed by the Scottish Government.</p> <p>Where possible the Applicant has sought to adjust or amend the proposals to take into consideration comments received.</p>

Standard	Description	Description
Working together	We will work together effectively to achieve the aims of the engagement	<p>The Applicant undertook the community engagement with assistance from technical specialists where appropriate; contact details for relevant staff were made available publicly.</p> <p>In planning the pre-application consultation events the Applicant took into account feedback received at the initial public events in April 2018 and January 2019.</p> <p>The Applicant responded to all comments in a timely manner.</p> <p>The Applicant engaged with statutory consultees early in the process to consult on the design and assessment of the Proposed Development.</p> <p>The Applicant met with Hoy and North Walls community councils to answer questions and provide information.</p>
Methods	We will use methods of engagement that are fit for purpose	<p>For all attendees at the public exhibitions in January 2019 and May/June/August 2019, staff were made available on a 1:1 basis to communicate information on the visual and information boards.</p> <p>The Applicant used a variety of mediums including newsletters, press releases, radio notices, videos, questionnaires and public exhibitions to communicate information about the project and the consultation process.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request.</p> <p>Materials used in public consultation were presented in clear English and kept as concise as possible.</p> <p>Photomontages were used to visualise the proposals and received positive feedback from members of the public attending the exhibitions.</p>

Standard	Description	Description
Communication	We will communicate clearly and regularly with the people, organisations and communities affected by the engagement.	<p>A contact database was developed and updated throughout the engagement process.</p> <p>Concerns and questions raised by consultees and members of the public at the public events held have been directly addressed through email correspondence or through the assessments presented within the EIA Report. Deadlines for submission of comments were made clear.</p> <p>Within the PAC report, the Applicant has ensured that the findings of the consultation process have been presented with transparency and integrity.</p>
Impact	We will assess the impact of the engagement and use what we have learned to improve our future community engagement.	<p>The Applicant has monitored the consultation process and evaluated it using the National Standards for Community Engagement. In addition, ITPE has used SP=EED (Scottish Planning=Effective Engagement and Delivery derived from PAN 3/2010) to audit the consultation process.</p> <p>The Applicant ensured that staff involved in the consultation process were trained in Public and Stakeholder Engagement.</p> <p>The Applicant has internally reviewed the community consultation process undertaken for the Proposed Development and will use this to influence engagement planning for other future developments.</p> <p>Feedback received on the public exhibitions (both materials and presentations) will be analysed. Examples of 'best practice' and 'lessons learnt' will be incorporated into the Applicant's internal training.</p>

SP=EED Evaluation

SP=EED	Level Achieved	Examples of how we achieved this
<p>1. TRANSPARENCY & INTEGRITY</p>	<p>Level 3 – Dialogue will take place with partners about how they will be involved in the engagement process and how their input will be used.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged in a dialogue with local community councils and organisations to discuss the proposed engagement process. The Applicant was clear on what the scope and purpose of the consultation process and advertised public exhibitions widely via newsletters, posters and local press and radio.</p> <p>During the consultation events the Applicant discussed the scope and limitations of the planning system and the relative merits and dismerits of the Proposed Development in a clear and fair way. Feedback was requested and our consultants made clear that public opinions would be recognised, assessed and included as appropriate in the assessment.</p>
<p>2. CO-ORDINATION</p>	<p>Level 2 – The timetable for the engagement process will include adequate periods for meetings, public events and discussion with stakeholders.</p>	<p>The Applicant engaged all the relevant stakeholders in the consultation process. In terms of public exhibitions, these were arranged to avoid the school holidays and undertaken across a range of dates and times at multiple locations to allow access by as many people as possible. At the events, those attending were given clear instruction on the deadline for submitting comments.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed in agreement with OIC which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request.</p> <p>The Applicant has engaged in a dialogue with the local community councils to discuss the proposed engagement process and Orkney Island Council representatives were present at the public exhibition events held in various locations in May/June 2019</p>
<p>3. INFORMATION</p>	<p>Level 2 - Information will be communicated and shared, aiming to invite feedback.</p>	<p>The Applicant ensured all information was available in a timely manner and was clearly presented. Where additional queries or comments were received after the scoping stage, these were addressed and – as appropriate – incorporated into the EIA.</p> <p>Information was communicated to the local community via exhibitions using clear and engaging information boards and active presentation/Q&A sessions. At and following</p>

SP=EED	Level Achieved	Examples of how we achieved this
		<p>the exhibitions, feedback on content, quality and ways to improve the engagement process in future was invited and received.</p> <p>Comments have been incorporated as required, and opportunities for improvement will be communicated to the wider team as part of internal training.</p>
4. APPROPRIATENESS	<p>Level 2 – Engagement processes to fit the situation will be used, with opportunities for discussion and for questions to be raised and answered.</p>	<p>The Applicant used a variety of mediums including newsletters, press releases, radio notices, questionnaires and public exhibitions to communicate information about the Proposed Development and the consultation process.</p> <p>Public exhibitions were held in venues that were accessible to everyone in the community and took place across a range of dates and times to suit as many people as possible.</p> <p>The Applicant’s project representatives attended the public exhibitions and gave presentations as well as holding Q&A sessions. Some of the feedback received from the Kirkwall exhibition included “The consultant who spoke with me was very informative and engaging”.</p> <p>Photomontages used to visualise the proposals and received positive feedback from members of the public attending the exhibitions.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request.</p>
5. RESPONSIVENESS	<p>Level 2 – Findings from the engagement process will be analysed, disseminated and potentially incorporated.</p>	<p>When working with stakeholders, the Applicant listened and ensured that responses were provided in a timely manner.</p> <p>Concerns and questions raised by consultees and members of the public at the public events held have been directly addressed through email correspondence or through the assessments presented within the EIA Report.</p> <p>Where possible the Applicant has sought to adjust or amend the proposals to take into consideration comments received.</p>

SP=EED	Level Achieved	Examples of how we achieved this
6. INCLUSIVENESS	Level 1 – Relevant representative groups / organisations will be identified and information will be designed and disseminated to reach them.	<p>The Applicant used a variety of mediums including newsletters, letters, press releases and a website to communicate information about the project and the consultation process. The public exhibitions were held in venues that were accessible to everyone in the community and took place across a range of dates and times to suit as many people as possible. The public exhibitions were deliberately arranged to avoid the school holidays.</p> <p>Following the restrictions placed on the consultation process by the coronavirus pandemic, an online consultation was designed which offered a number of options to those wishing to take part in the consultation including online options, telephone consultation and postal packs on request.</p>
7. MONITORING AND EVALUATING	Level 1 – Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.	The PAC report fulfils this requirement by documenting the consultation process that has been undertaken and providing a summary of the comments received.
8. LEARNING AND SHARING	Level 2 – Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.	The Applicant will internally review the community consultation process undertaken for the proposed development and use this to influence engagement planning for other future developments. Feedback received on the public exhibitions (both materials and presentations) will be analysed. Examples of ‘best practice’ and ‘lessons learnt’ will be incorporated into internal training.

