

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Faray

Pre-Application Consultation Report



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Abbreviations

CTMP	Construction Traffic Management Plan
ECU	Energy Consents Unit
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HIAL	Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd
JRC	Joint Radio Company
km	Kilometre
km ²	Square Kilometre
m	Metre
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MW	Megawatt
NPF	National Planning Framework
NRTF	National Road Traffic Forecast
OIC	Orkney Islands Council
PAC	Pre-Application Consultation (Report)
PAN	Proposal of Application Notice
PMP	Port Management Plan
PID	Public Information Day
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
SW	Scottish Water
WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This document is the Pre-Application Consultation Report for Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project - Faray (Proposed Development) which supports the Town and Country Planning application by Orkney Islands Council (the Applicant) for the development of a wind farm on the island of Faray, Orkney.
- 1.2 A separate pre-application consultation report will support the marine licence application (covering works below the mean high water springs (MHWS)) as required under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

Overview

- 1.3 The Applicant has submitted an application for the Proposed Development to Orkney Islands Council (OIC) under The Town and Country Planning Act (Scotland) 1997 (as amended). This application is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report prepared in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Scotland) Regulations 2017.
- 1.4 In accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 a programme of pre-application consultation (PAC) has been undertaken by the Applicant. This Report gives details of the various meetings, correspondence, public exhibitions, virtual events, other online availability of information, and other discussions which have taken place with the community and consultees. The Report also details the findings of that work and illustrates the ways in which the consultation has helped identify potential issues arising from the emerging proposal and, where appropriate, shape the final design which is now the subject of the planning application.
- 1.5 As stated within paragraph 2.8 of the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland), *“With one exception, all applications for planning permission or for planning permission in principle under regulations 9, 10 or 11 for national and for major developments require PAC between developers and communities. Applications for such developments will need to demonstrate compliance with the legislative requirements for PAC. The National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009 (SSI 2009/51) specify the range of development to be treated as national or major respectively.”*
- 1.6 The Proposed Development is expected to have a total installed capacity of approximately 28.8 megawatts (MW), and is therefore considered a ‘major’ development requiring a PAC.
- 1.7 Paragraph 2.23 of the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland) states *“In responding to a proposal of application notice, and given their powers to require additional consultation, planning authorities should be as clear as they can as to their expectations of matters to be included in the PAC report. In this way, the prospective applicant will be more readily able to show that the required steps have been undertaken.”*
- 1.8 A letter received from OIC on the 3rd July 2020 (refer to Appendix 1) outlines the requirements of the PAC Report in accordance paragraph 2.36 of the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland), they are as follows:
- Details of who has been consulted.
 - Details of what step were taken to comply with the statutory requirements and those of the planning authority.
 - Details of how the Applicant has responded to the comments made, including whether and the extent to which the proposals have changed as a result of PAC.

- Appropriate evidence that the various prescribed steps have been undertaken – for example, copies of notices advertising public events and reference to material made available at such events. It should be noted that there is a minimum requirement for a notice of the public event to be advertised in the local press at least 7 days before the event. The applicant is also encouraged to arrange for such event to be advertised in at least one of the ‘Around Orkney’ daily programmes on Radio Orkney.
 - Demonstration of steps that were taken to explain the nature of PAC, in particular that it does not replace the application process whereby representation can be made to the planning authority.
- 1.9 The COVID-19 emergency meant that it was not possible to hold public meetings without unacceptably posing a significant risk to public health. So that the development management system can continue to function and that planning applications can continue to be submitted, the Scottish Government put in place legislation¹ to temporarily suspend the requirement for a public event in relation to PAC.
- 1.10 Accordingly, the Applicant was unable to hold the final public exhibition² on the proposals in person, however considerable effort was put into designing a consultation (in line with the new regulations¹ and guidance³) which would reach as many people as possible and give everyone the opportunity to understand the proposals and make their opinions heard. This included:
- Full information on the project, including downloadable and printable versions of the project information and a video presentation, were available at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC.
 - A feedback form was available online at the web address above or could be requested by post.
 - On 29th October 2020 from 16:00 to 19:00 a live and interactive web-based consultation took place. Details on how to join the live event were posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and during the event attendees were able to view outline proposals for the development, find out more about the development and ask questions to members of the project team. The event was advertised via a Press Release on the 13th October and through Public Notices on the 15th and 22nd of October.
 - Members of the Applicants project team were available by telephone to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have, with a phone number provided in all advertising of the PAC.
 - Members of the Applicant’s project team were available for virtual one-to-one presentations by Microsoft Teams on 28th October 2020 and 4th November 2020 between the hours of 14.00 and 17.00 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 Applicant’s project team were available by email to discuss any questions or concerns with an email address provided in all advertising of the PAC.
 - On the request of Eday Community Council a consultation pack – including a covering letter, full project information and a feedback form – was sent to every household in Eday during the consultation period.
 - The project team took part in an episode of Wireless Westray, a podcast produced in Westray, an island community in proximity to the Proposed Development. The episode consisted of questions submitted by members of the community with the Project Director answering these. The resulting 60 minute programme is available to listen to online.

¹ The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020

² Earlier events had been held in 2018 and 2019.

³ Coronavirus (COVID-19): Planning guidance on pre-application consultations for public events

- The Applicant carried out video discussions with senior pupils at Westray Junior High School during which pupils were presented with information on the project and given an opportunity to ask questions of the project team.
- 1.11 All of the above requirements described at 1.8 above are addressed below, within the PAC.
- 1.12 Paragraph 2.35 of the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland) states that “*The applicant must prepare a report of what has been done during the pre-application phase to comply with the statutory requirements for PAC and any requirements set out in the planning authority’s response to the proposal of application notice. The report is to be made in writing (which may include being in electronic format).*” The PAC should be read in light of the new regulations¹ and guidance³.
- 1.13 Subsections 35C(1) and (2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended states that:
- A person who, before submitting an application for planning permission for a development, is required to comply with section 35B and who proceeds to submit that application is to prepare a report (a “pre-application consultation report”) as to what has been done to effect such compliance; and
 - a pre-application consultation report is to be in such form as may be prescribed.
- 1.14 This report details the consultation undertaken with regards to the Proposed Development and has been submitted to OIC.
- 1.15 The Applicant is grateful to the statutory and non-statutory consultees, residents and local representatives for their input into the pre-application community engagement process and for their assistance in facilitating the meetings and consultation events.

2 Consultee Consultation

Introduction

- 2.1 The Applicant has undertaken consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees throughout the EIA process and full details of these, the responses received, and the Applicants actions are provided in the EIA Report and summarised below.

EIA Scoping

- 2.2 The Applicant requested an EIA Scoping Opinion from OIC in March 2019 through the submission of an EIA Scoping Report (refer to Appendix 4.1 of the EIA Report). This EIA Scoping Report contained details of the site baseline and the Proposed Development. It also proposed which environmental impacts would be assessed in the EIA, and the assessment methodologies that would be used.
- 2.3 OIC consulted with a variety of statutory and non-statutory consultees before providing an EIA Scoping Opinion in April 2019 (refer to Appendix 4.2 of the EIA Report). Table 1 below summaries the consultees who responded within the Scoping Opinion and the technical information they advised on.

Table 1 - EIA Scoping Opinion Consultation

Consultee	Technical Topic
OIC County Archaeologist	Cultural Heritage
OIC Development and Marine Planning	EIA, Landscape and Visual, Ecology, Ornithology, Noise, Cultural Heritage, Traffic and Transport, Geology,

Consultee	Technical Topic
	Hydrology and Hydrogeology, Aviation, Socio-Economic, Recreation and Tourism, Shadow Flicker and Telecommunications.
OIC Environmental Health	Noise
OIC Roads Services	Traffic and Transport
Airfield Superintendent	Aviation
Historic Environment Scotland (HES)	Cultural Heritage
Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology
NatureScot (formerly known as Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH))	Landscape and Visual and Ornithology
Scottish Water	Geology, Hydrology and Hydrogeology
Highlands & Islands Airport (HIAL)	Aviation
Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Aviation
NATS Safeguarding	Aviation
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland	Ornithology
OFCOM (Spectrum Licensing)	Telecommunications
Arqiva	Telecommunications
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Telecommunications
Kirkwall Airport Senior Pilot	Aviation

Other Consultees

2.4 In addition to EIA Scoping the following consultation has been undertaken with other consultees as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2 – Additional Consultee Consultation

Date	Consultee	Matters Raised
09/03/20 & 11/11/20	OIC	LVIA (viewpoints)

Date	Consultee	Matters Raised
20/12/20	NatureScot	Ornithology (survey effort agreed)
11/08/20	SEPA	Ecology and Geology, Hydrology, Hydrogeology
02/03/20, 07/08/20 & 25/09/20	OIC (Environmental Health Officer)	Noise (survey locations, approach and working hours)
07/10/20 & 28/02/20	Orkney County Archaeologist	Cultural Heritage (including viewpoints)
30/10/19, 11/11/19 & 12/03/20	HES	Cultural Heritage (viewpoints and chamber cairn)
26/08/20	HIAL & Kirkwall Airport Senior Pilot	Aviation and Radar
04/12/20	Marine Scotland – Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT)	Marine Ecology
22/12/20	JNCC	Marine Ecology
07/01/21	NatureScot	Marine Ecology
September 2020	Joint Radio Company (JRC), BT, Ericsson, Ofcom, Vodafone, Atkins & Arqiva.	Telecommunications
October 2019, October 2020 & November 2020	Marine Services and Harbour Authority: OIC and Orkney Ferries Ltd.	Marine Radar
01/11/19	Marine Scotland	Marine License

3 Public Consultation

Introduction

- 3.1 With regards to the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland) the following paragraphs address public consultation in relation to the PAC.
- 3.2 Paragraph 2.29: *Prospective applicants should consider additional measures for publicising PAC activities, such as use of their own web sites to host information. Information issued as part of PAC should be factually accurate, easy to understand, jargon free, accessible and relevant. It should be made available in appropriate formats and provided in good time to enable people to take part and discuss their views with others.*
- 3.3 Paragraph 2.32: *Presentations at events should follow the guidance at paragraph 2.29 about information. Staffing of events should include people who are knowledgeable about the proposals*

and about the planning issues likely to be of concern or interest to the public. PAC should not be treated by prospective applicants as merely a marketing exercise to promote the development.

- 3.4 Paragraph 2.33: *There is a need to emphasise to communities that the plans presented to them may alter in some way before the final proposal is submitted as a planning application. Ideally, those consulted or who expressed views could be given a chance to comment on any significant changes to proposals being considered as a result of PAC, before the application is finalised.*
- 3.5 The COVID-19 pandemic meant that it was not possible to hold public meetings without unacceptably posing a significant risk to public health. So that the development management system can continue to function and that planning applications can continue to be submitted, the Scottish Government put in place legislation to temporarily suspend the requirement for a public event in relation to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC).
- 3.6 Accordingly, the Applicant was unable to hold the final public exhibition on the proposals in person, however considerable effort was put into designing a consultation which would reach as many people as possible and give everyone the opportunity to understand the proposals and make their opinions heard. The approach, which was in line with what was previously agreed with OIC Development Management for the Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project Hoy (under the same COVID legislation) included:
- (a) Full information on the project, including downloadable and printable versions of the project information and a video presentation, were available at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC from 13th October 2020.
 - (b) A feedback form was available online at the web address above or could be requested by post.
 - (c) On 29th October 2020 from 16:00 to 19:00 a live and interactive web-based consultation took place. Details on how to join the live event were posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and during the event attendees were able to view outline proposals for the development, find out more about the development and ask questions to members of the project team. The event was advertised via a Press Release on 13th October 2020 and through Public Notices on 15th and 22nd of October 2020.
 - (d) Members of The Applicants project team were available by telephone to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have, with a phone number provided in all advertising of the PAC.
 - (e) Members of the Applicant's project team were available for virtual one-to-one presentations by Microsoft Teams on 28th October 2020 and 4th November 2020 between the hours of 14.00 and 17.00 as well as at other times by arrangement, to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.
 - (f) Members of the Council's project team were available by email to discuss any questions or concerns with an email address provided in all advertising of the PAC.
- 3.7 In addition to the approach agreed with OIC as described above, the Applicant's project team also:
- (a) On the request of Eday Community Council sent a consultation pack – including a covering letter, full project information and a feedback form – to every household in Eday during the consultation period.
 - (b) Took part in an episode of Wireless Westray, a podcast produced in Westray, one of the local island communities. The episode consisted of questions submitted by members of the community with the Project Director answering these and the resulting 60-minute programme is available to listen to online or download.
 - (c) Carried out video discussions with senior pupils at Westray Junior High School during which pupils were presented with information on the project and given an opportunity to ask questions of the project team.

- 3.8 The Applicant has engaged with local communities and the general public throughout the development of the Proposed Development. This engagement has been undertaken through a variety of approaches:
- ▶ Public information days in May, June and August 2019.
 - ▶ Virtual public information day in October 2020.
 - ▶ Availability of project team members for one-to-one Microsoft Teams presentations.
 - ▶ Availability of project team members by telephone for question and answer sessions.
 - ▶ Availability of project team members by email to answer queries.
 - ▶ Webpages with information on the Proposed Development, including a video presentation of the exhibition material.
 - ▶ Wireless Westray podcast, published 13th November 2020.
 - ▶ Postal packs distributed to all households in Eday on the request of Eday Community Council.
 - ▶ Online presentations to senior pupils at Westray Junior High School.
- 3.9 This consultation allowed local residents to provide their opinions on the principle and design of the Proposed Development, while also raising concerns. Full details of the consultation undertaken are provided below.

Public Information Days (PIDs) – May/June/August 2019

Introduction

- 3.10 Following the launch of the wider ‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’, Public Information Days (PIDs) were undertaken at three separate locations: Kirkwall, Eday, and Rendall on 2nd, 7th and 8th May respectively, between 12:00 and 17:00 hours and again from 19:00 and 21:00 hours.
- 3.11 A fourth event was held at the Hofn Centre in Westray on the 19th June 2019 between 12:00 and 17:00 hours and again from 19:00 and 21:00 hours.
- 3.12 A drop-in session event for Orkney Islands Council staff not directly involved with the project was held on Wednesday 7th August from 12:00 until 15:00.

Notification

- 3.13 The May 2019 PIDs were advertised through a press release in the local newspaper (the Orcadian) and their associated website. The press release is included for information as Appendix 2. Additional press coverage was via local radio, and on the Council website.
- 3.14 The press release led to radio interviews with the Council Leader and with members of the project team. It contains information on the wider Orkney Community Wind Farm Project. Details were also given on how Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project could generate significant income and benefit for Orkney. Finally, details of the energy capacity of each new Proposed Development were provided and linked to the possibility of an improved grid connection for Orkney through discussions with Ofgem.
- 3.15 A second press release, included for information as Appendix 3, was issued regarding the Westray Public Information Day. The press release referenced the previous three events and included the date and location of the fourth event. It set out the benefits of the Proposed Development and a new interconnector cable for the local community and the local economy.
- 3.16 The Orkney Islands Council staff event was advertised by way of posters within the Council buildings, included for information in Appendix 4.

May/June/August 2019 PID and staff information session materials

- 3.17 The purpose of the PIDs was to inform the local communities of Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project and what it entails, to present the benefits of the project and to show what each wind

farm would look like from specific viewpoints. Information about the project was presented on a series of posters containing the following information:

- A description of the Orkney Community Wind Farm Project;
- The benefits of the project for Orkney;
- The reasons why particular sites were chosen; and
- The next steps in the EIA process.

3.18 A series of wireframe images of each of the three proposed sites were also displayed, allowing the local communities to visualise what the developments would look like from specific and relevant viewpoints. Refer to Appendix 5 for the boards shown at the Events.

May/June/August 2019 PID Event Attendance and Feedback

- 3.19 A consultation form was issued to attendees and is included for information as Appendix 6.
- 3.20 A total of 37 people responded to the consultation form at the PID event in Kirkwall, 21 people in Eday, 22 in Rendall and 13 in Westray. In addition, 30 responses were received from OIC staff.
- 3.21 Responses received have been summarised as a table in Appendix 7 and included as individual responses in Appendix 8.

Proposal of Application Notice

- 3.22 A proposal of Application Notice (PAN) regarding Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray was issued on 8 June 2020 and subsequently acknowledged by Orkney Islands Council on 3rd July 2020. A copy of the PAN has been included as Appendix 9, with the subsequent acknowledgement presented in Appendix 1.

Online consultation

- 3.23 In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Scottish Government 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.
- 3.24 Accordingly arrangements were put in place, in line with what was previously agreed with OIC Development Management for the Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project Hoy (under the same COVID legislation), to carry out an alternative consultation. These were;
- a) Full information on the project, including downloadable and printable versions of the project information and a video presentation, were available at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC from 13th October 2020. .
 - b) A feedback form was available online at the web address above or could be requested by post.
 - c) On 29th October 2020 from 16:00 to 19:00 a live and interactive web-based consultation event took place. Details on how to join the live event were posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and during the event attendees were able to view outline proposals for the development, find out more about the development and ask questions to members of the project team. The event was advertised via a Press Release on 13th October 2020 and through Public Notices in The Orcadian on 15th and 22nd of October 2020.
 - d) Members of the Applicant's project team were available by telephone to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have, with a phone number provided in all advertising of the PAC.
 - e) Members of the Applicant's project team were available for virtual one-to-one presentations by Microsoft Teams on 28th October 2020 and 4th November 2020 between

the hours of 14.00 and 17.00 as well as at other times by arrangement, to talk people through the plans and discuss any questions or concerns they may have.

- f) Members of the Applicant’s project team were available by email to discuss any questions or concerns with an email address provided in all advertising of the PAC.

3.25 In addition to the approach agreed with OIC as described above, the Applicant’s project team also:

- o On the request of Eday Community Council, sent a consultation pack – including a covering letter, full project information and a feedback form – to every household in Eday during the consultation period.
- o Took part in an episode of Wireless Westray, a podcast produced in Westray, one of the local island communities. The episode consisted of questions submitted by members of the community with the Project Director answering these and the resulting 60-minute programme is available to listen to online or download.
- o Carried out online presentations to senior pupils at Westray Junior High School, including a question and answer session.

Notification of online consultation

3.26 A press release was issued on 13th October 2020 (refer to Appendix 10) describing the consultation arrangements that were in place. The press release led to coverage in The Orcadian newspaper and an interview on BBC Radio Orkney with a member of the project team. The press release was also signposted to on social media and published on the Orkney Islands Council website <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/OIC-News/Orkney-Islands-Council-Launches-Consultation-on-Faray-Wind-Farm-Plans.htm>. The press release included information on the consultation options available for members of the public including the dates and times of the virtual event and of the one to one Microsoft Teams sessions. It also highlighted the importance of the PAC in informing the public about the Proposed Development. It also encouraged the public to follow their interest in the proposal through to the application stage.

3.27 A public notice was placed in The Orcadian on 15th October and 22nd October 2020. The advert included information on the consultation options available for members of the public including the dates and times of the virtual event and of the one to one Microsoft Teams sessions. It also highlighted the importance of the PAC in informing the public about the Proposed Development. It also encouraged the public to follow their interest in the proposal through to the application stage. A copy of the advertisement is included as Appendix 11.

3.28 The consultation was included in the Daily Diary on BBC Radio Orkney from 14th October to 30th November 2020. This described the consultation options available to members of the public and also provided contact details for the Project Officer (Consultation and Engagement) should members of the public wish to find out more information.

Consultation Material

3.29 The consultation material information was presented by means of a PowerPoint presentation shared during the online consultation event on 29th October, presented in a short film by the project team and published at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC through which the following information was provided. A copy of the presentation can be found at Appendix 12.

- ▶ A description of Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project.
- ▶ A summary of the benefits of the project for Orkney.
- ▶ A summary of why the sites were chosen.
- ▶ A summary of how the original plans have been altered.
- ▶ A description of the infrastructure that will be included on the site.
- ▶ A description of the proposed plans for delivering turbine components to the site.
- ▶ A summary of the challenges the site still has, and how they will be addressed.

- ▶ A diagram showing where the project is currently at within the overall process.
- ▶ Visualisations showing how the project would look from five different viewpoints namely Vinguoy Hill, Sands of Mussetter, Westray Ferry, Westray Ferry Terminal, Ness of Tuquoy, and Kierfea Hill.

3.30 A 'Guide to the Consultation Boards' was also produced and published at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC. The document can be found at Appendix 13.

3.31 A feedback form was produced and made available online at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and could also be requested by post. The feedback form can be found at Appendix 14.

Online Consultation Participation and Feedback

3.32 A total of 50 people completed the online survey, 28 in full and 22 partially. Online survey responses have been summarised as a table in Appendix 15.

3.33 A total of 11 email responses were also received by the Applicant. These have been summarised in Appendix 16.

3.34 A total of five people attended the virtual session on 29th October 2020. The format of the event and the comments received, and questions asked at that have been summarised at Appendix 17.

3.35 A total of three households requested one to one phone sessions.

3.36 One handwritten letter was received and is presented in typed format at Appendix 18.

3.37 The Applicant project team were contacted by the recently formed Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative (OMMRI) who had concerns around the project, specifically around the grey seal population associated with the island. An online meeting was held between the Applicant and OMMRI, with the OMMRI subsequently submitting a response. The response is included at Appendix 19.

3.38 During the consultation process the Applicant identified that concerns around the grey seal population were consistently being raised by consultees and the public, both directly through consultation responses and indirectly through social media posts about the project. In response to this the Applicant team subsequently produced a blog on the subject, which was published on November 26th 2020 on the project blog site at <https://kirstygroundwater.wixsite.com/orkneywindfarm/post/faray-seals-how-do-they-factor-into-the-planning-application>, shared across social media channels and emailed to those who had already taken part in the consultation. The blog was viewed 128 times and is available to view at Appendix 20.

Additional Consultation Opportunities

3.39 Following a presentation to Eday Community Council on 26th October 2020 the Chair of the Community Council requested that a postal pack containing the consultation materials be sent to all households in Eday. The postal packs were subsequently sent on 5th November 2020 and included a copy of the project presentation (see Appendix 12), a copy of the 'Guide to the Consultation Boards' document (see Appendix 13), a copy of the feedback form (see Appendix 14) and a covering letter (see Appendix 21).

3.40 During the consultation period the Applicant project team were contacted by the Westray Development Trust who produce a monthly community podcast called Wireless Westray. The Trust asked whether the project team would be interested in taking part in an episode, answering questions submitted by members of the public. The podcast was subsequently recorded on 10th November 2020 and made available online on 13th November 2020. A list of the questions submitted is available at Appendix 22 and the podcast is available to listen to at https://www.spreaker.com/user/12570168/episode-13-faray-wind-farm-project?fbclid=IwAR1nqREQb00aGWFNeCkLP8JJBoZ6Ekdni2uMjUYCR1Rnj414FNy8_Ovylg. The podcast was downloaded 113 times, with CD versions provided to ten households who don't have online access.

- 3.41 The Applicant’s project team carried out video discussions with senior pupils at Westray Junior High School during which pupils were presented with information on the project and given an opportunity to ask questions of the project team. Three sessions were carried out in total, no further feedback was received from the school.

4 Community Council Consultation

- 4.1 In addition to the online consultation, the Applicant also met online with Westray Community Council on 12th October 2020 and Eday Community Council on 26th October 2020.
- 4.2 During these meetings the Applicant provided descriptions of the Proposed Development, including photomontages, the aims of the project, the scale of the project, the reasons why Orkney Community Wind Farm Project - Faray had been chosen as a site and the role of the pre-application consultation process, including highlighting that responses to the pre-application consultation do not form a representation on the application and there would be an opportunity for their representation to be made following submission of the application.
- 4.3 Following the meeting with Westray Community Council, the Community Council wrote to The Applicant to indicate their support for the project. A copy of this letter can be found at Appendix 23.
- 4.4 Following the meeting with Eday Community Council, the Community Council made two requests. Firstly, that a postal pack should be sent to all households in Eday (as described at 3.39 above) and that an additional viewpoint should be provided in the consultation material, taken from the Cusbay Road area of the island. This was provided in the consultation packs to Eday households and the online version of the consultation material was subsequently updated. This additional viewpoint can be found at Appendix 24.
- 4.5 The Applicant was also invited to take part in an online meeting of all of the North Isles’ Community Councils on 3rd November 2020, attended by representatives from Stronsay, Rousay, Papa Westray and Sanday. Following the meeting a copy of the consultation material was provided to the Community Council Chairs.

5 Analysis of the Consultation Process

- 5.1 Analysis of the consultation process was undertaken against the seven National Standards for Community Engagement (as set out in PAN 3/2016) and Scottish Planning = Effective Engagement and Delivery (SP=EED) criteria and is incorporated as Appendix 25.

6 Overview of Applicant Response to PID Feedback

- 6.1 Concerns and questions raised by consultees and members of the public at the PIDs have been responded to where possible through phone calls, emails or amendments to the design and assessment presented within the EIA Report. Where possible the Applicant has sought to adjust or amend the proposals to take into consideration comments received. The below section provides an overview of the Applicant’s response to PID Feedback. A detailed overview of wider consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees is provided in Appendix 4.3 and 4.4 of the EIA Report.

Socio-economics

- 6.2 Many of the concerns raised by local residents attending the PID events related to the economics of the Proposed Development (including the potential cost of accessing Faray) and the returns for the community of Orkney and the local economy. The residents also raised concerns about how the OIC will invest the income generated by the Proposed Development. Full details of the socio-

economic benefits are described in Chapter 13 of the EIA Report. The Applicant has also agreed to guiding principles for the use of the community benefit fund, as set out in 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, Community Benefit Guiding Principles' (Orkney Islands Council, 2019).

Wildlife

- 6.3 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the potential for impacts on wildlife, with reference made to the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). With the exception of the access points, all infrastructure has been positioned outwith these designations. No significant residual effects have been predicted for ornithology, terrestrial ecology, underwater noise, marine water and sediment quality and seabed species (see Chapters 7, 8, 16, 17 and 18 of the EIA Report respectively).

Cultural Heritage

- 6.4 Members of the public raised concerns regarding the potential for impacts on cultural heritage assets and requested that remnants of dwellings be left in place and the graveyard be respected.
- 6.5 The Proposed Development has been designed so as to avoid impacts upon known heritage assets where possible. The implementation of mitigation measures will prevent inadvertent damage to known heritage features; investigate the potential for previously unknown features and disseminate the results of archaeological works to the public.
- 6.6 The design allows for all of the upstanding buildings to be left in place and no infrastructure has been placed in the vicinity of the graveyard.
- 6.7 The full assessment of likely effects on cultural heritage is provided in Chapter 10 of the EIA Report.

Landscape and Visual Impact

- 6.8 Landscape and visual impact (including cumulative impact) was raised as a concern by some respondents.
- 6.9 Throughout the design evolution of the Proposed Development, consideration has been given to keeping the proposed turbines sufficiently inset so as not to encroach on the coastal edge and appear contained on the island. The iterative design process has ensured that the proposed turbines have been set at consistent elevations and spaced evenly, to produce a compact and legible layout from the key viewpoints on the surrounding islands.
- 6.10 The full assessment of likely effects on landscape and visual impact is provided in Chapter 6 of the EIA Report.

Noise & Shadow Flicker

- 6.11 Residents requested that concerns over noise and shadow flicker are addressed. These are fully assessed in Chapter 9 and Chapter 15 of the EIA Report respectively.

Climate Change

- 6.12 A number of respondents raised the importance of reducing carbon footprints and the importance of climate change. Chapter 17 of the EIA Report provides details on the carbon savings associated with the Proposed Development.

7 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Applicant has undertaken pre-application consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees, Community Council's and the general public. Consultation has been undertaken through an online consultation process, press releases and question and answer sessions.

7.2 Following the consultation, the Applicant has considered the design of the Proposed Development, the environmental mitigation to be implemented and the assessment of the environmental effects, ensuring that where possible, concerns raised are addressed.

Appendix 1 – Letter from OIC Planning on requirements for PAC report.

Introduction

This appendix is a copy of the letter received from OIC on 3rd July 2020 outlining the requirements of the PAC Report in accordance with paragraph 2.36 of the Planning Circular 3/2013: Development Management Procedures (Scotland).

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Executive Director: Gavin Barr, BSc Hons, MSc URP, MRTPI
Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY

Tel: 01856 873535 Website: www.orkney.gov.uk
Email: planning@orkney.gov.uk



3rd July 2020

Orkney Islands Council
c/o ITP Energised
7 Dundas Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6QG

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 AS AMENDED
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE**

Dear ITP Energised

Ref No: PREAPP/002/20
Type: Pre-Application
Location: Faray, North Isles, Orkney
Proposal: Proposal of Application Notice to erect six wind turbines

Thank you for the above Notice which was received on 8 June 2020. I will be the case officer and would be grateful if you would quote the reference number PREAPP/002/20 in any correspondence.

Under the provisions of the Act and Regulations specified above you cannot submit the proposed planning application until the expiry of 12 weeks from the date of the Notice.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 35B of the Act the Proposal of Application Notice should be given to the persons/bodies specified below.

Scottish Water
Planning Unit (North Region) SEPA
Scottish Natural Heritage
Historic Environment Scotland

Roads Services
Development & Marine Planning
Orkney Archaeologist
Marine Services
Environmental Health
Airfield Superintendent

Orkney Heritage Society (East)
The Royal Society for The Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Highlands & Islands Airports Ltd
Kirkwall Airport - Senior Pilot
Spectrum.Licensing@ofcom.org.uk
Wind@jrc.co.uk
Windfarm.management@arqiva.com
MoD (Ministry Of Defence)
NATS (National Air Traffic Services)

Eday Community Council
Westray Community Council

The planning authority, and the Community Councils and all persons/bodies specified above must be provided full details of the dates and locations/other means of engagement with the community consultation events.

If you require contact details for any of the above please contact Development Management at planning@orkney.gov.uk.

You should make it clear to these persons/bodies that the proposed development will also be subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment under the provisions of Environmental Impact Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 2017.

For clarity, the proposed planning application would have to be accompanied by a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) report. Scottish Government guidance indicates that as a minimum the report should include the following:

1. Details of who has been consulted.
2. Details of what steps were taken to comply with the statutory requirements and those of the planning authority.
3. Details of how the applicant has responded to the comments made, including whether and the extent to which the proposals have changed as a result of PAC.
4. Appropriate evidence that the various prescribed steps have been undertaken – for example, copies of notices advertising public events and reference to material made available at such events. You should note that there is a minimum requirement for a notice of the public event to be advertised in the local press at least 7 days before the event. You are also encouraged to arrange for such event to be advertised in at least one of the 'Around Orkney' daily programmes on Radio Orkney.
5. Demonstration of steps that were taken to explain the nature of PAC, in particular that it does not replace the application process whereby representations can be made to the planning authority.

Through the PAC consultation process with key agencies, feedback may identify issues that the Council is presently unaware of. If this is the case, you may wish to make us aware of these so that we can establish if any other information would require to be submitted with the proposed planning application.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Barclay
Senior Planner

Appendix 2 – Press Release for May/June 2019 PID events

Introduction

This Appendix contains the press release which was presented to the public in order to raise awareness for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project and of upcoming PIDs. The press release included the date, time and location of forthcoming consultation events and gives further detail on the three projects being considered – including Faray. The press release was published on 26th April 2019 on the Council website and provided to The Orcadian and BBC Radio Orkney

Press Release

OIC Announces 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project'

Orkney Islands Council is to investigate an additional two sites for potential community wind farms in the county - to add to the project already under investigation on Hoy.

The new projects under consideration are located at Faray, in the North Isles, and at Quanterness in St Ola.

'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' could generate significant income and community benefit for Orkney. All profit would stay in the islands, enabling the Council to preserve and enhance key services that local people value and depend upon and providing a foundation for communities to drive transformational projects of their own.

The developments will also allow the Council to join other local developers in making a meaningful contribution to a Needs Case for a new interconnector for Orkney, thereby substantially supporting the vital renewable energy industry in Orkney, including future development of the marine energy sector.

The wider economic development value of a new cable to Orkney could be highly significant, particularly if a substantial proportion of local ownership can be secured which will help employment and income remain in the county.

Plans for a development of up to around 28MW in Hoy were announced to the local community last year - with sites for a development of up to 32MW on the island of Faray and up to 24MW on shoreside farmland at Quanterness outside Kirkwall now also being investigated.

The proximity of the project at Quanterness to Kirkwall could also enable a separate private wire network project in which the Council could directly supply electricity to its own buildings as a means to reduce costs.

Public engagement events have been organised for Kirkwall, Eday and Rendall over the coming fortnight. Proposed plans for the developments will be on display at these, with Elected Members and Council Officers on hand to discuss the plans with members of the public.

The event details are as follows:

Thursday 2 May – Kirkwall Town Hall and Community Centre – 12.00 to 17.00 and 19.00 to 21.00.

Tuesday 7 May – Eday Heritage Centre – 12.00 to 16.00 and 19.30 to 21.30.

Wednesday 8 May – Rendall Community Centre – 12.30 to 17.00 and 19.00 to 21.00.

An event will also be held in Westray, with the date yet to be confirmed.

The proposed Quanterness site has the potential capacity for six 150m blade tip height turbines.

The site on Faray has enough space for up to eight 150m blade tip height turbines.

The current proposal at the third site in Hoy is to erect seven turbines compared to the 30 presented in the original plans.

The proposals for each site are expected to evolve as further site investigation work and consultation is undertaken. Site investigations, including bird and telecommunications studies, will be ongoing at all three sites.

The intention is for the Council to reach planning permission stage by the end of 2020 ensuring all views and issues are fully explored and considered before any final decisions are made. Proposals for how the applications will be determined are currently being considered.

Councillor James Stockan is Leader of Orkney Islands Council. He said: “It is vital that the Council now takes an active ‘developer approach’ to energy projects in our islands. Not only does this allow us to maximise the resources available to us in the islands to support services and projects for local people, but it also allows us to contribute significantly and in a meaningful way to allow our world-renowned local energy industry to survive and thrive through a new grid connection.

“Our strategy is one that meets uncertainty head-on. The final details of proposals are by no means set in stone whilst investigations are carried out at the three sites, nor are all three sites guaranteed planning permission – and of course we also wish to take into account public opinion on the developments. Widening the net and moving to investigate three separate sites, allows us a degree of flexibility in the make-up of the final outcome.”

Notes to editors

Orkney Islands Council took ownership of the islands of Faray, Holm of Faray and Red Holm in January having purchased them for £355,000 after they were offered for sale on the open market.

In order to secure an improved grid connection for Orkney and enable new energy projects in the islands, Scottish and Southern Energy Networks must agree on a ‘Needs Case’ for the new connection with the electricity market regulator Ofgem. Scottish and Southern Energy Networks proposed to Ofgem that, in order to justify the new cable, 70 megawatts of generation would require to be signed up for a grid connection by the end of 2019. Ofgem disagreed with this and is of the opinion that 135MW of generation is required. Although negotiation is ongoing, with an announcement expected shortly, it is highly likely that whatever the final decision, the Council will need to have projects in development in order to reach the required number of megawatts to trigger a new cable.

Amended plans for a potential Council-owned wind farm in Hoy were presented to the local community in early January. The current proposal is to erect seven turbines compared to the 30 presented in the original plans. The turbines have also been made taller, moved further away from local homes and have been focused towards the north of the site. The plans were amended following consideration of the site’s proximity to the national scenic area and residential properties, bird sensitivities and the location of communication masts in the area. The site the Council has been looking at lies at and to the south of Wee Fea, the hill behind Lyness which contains underground wartime oil tanks.

Appendix 3 – Press release for Westray Event, June 2019

Introduction

The press release in this appendix references the previous three events and includes the date and location of the fourth event. It sets out the benefits of the Proposed Development and a new interconnector cable for the local community and the local economy.

Press Release

Scoping Reports Published for Orkney’s Wind Farm Projects – and Westray Date Announced.

Key documents on Orkney Islands Council's Community Wind Farm project are now available through the planning portal on the council website.

The Council announced in April that it was investigating an additional two sites for potential community wind farms in the county - to add to the project already under investigation on Hoy.

The new projects under consideration are located at Faray, in the North Isles, and at Quanterness in St Ola.

Three well-attended public drop-in information sessions were held in Kirkwall, Eday and Rendall over the last fortnight. A fourth event is due to take place in Westray on Wednesday 19 June at the Hofn Centre.

Request for Scoping Opinion Reports, and associated documents, for both these projects are now available, setting out further details of the project.

Request for Scoping Opinion Reports are submitted by project developers in the very early stages of major projects as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The reports provide details of the planned project and give key stakeholders like SNH and SEPA an opportunity to feedback to the applicant on what they would like to see included in the EIA process.

The Environmental Impact Assessment is a key aspect of many large scale planning applications. It is an information gathering and assessment exercise which helps stakeholders, the public and the planning authority understand the potential environmental impacts of major development proposals.

‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’ could generate significant income and community benefit for Orkney. All profit would stay in the islands, enabling the Council to preserve and enhance key services that local people value and depend upon and providing a foundation for communities to drive transformational projects of their own.

The developments will also allow the Council to join other local developers in making a meaningful contribution to a Needs Case for a new interconnector for Orkney, thereby substantially supporting the vital renewable energy industry in Orkney, including future development of the marine energy sector, as well as helping helping Orkney contribute towards low carbon objectives.

The wider economic development value of a new cable to Orkney could be highly significant, particularly if a substantial proportion of local ownership can be secured - which will help employment and income remain in the county.

Plans for a development of up to around 28MW in Hoy were announced to the local community last year - with sites for a development of up to 32MW on the island of Faray and up to 24MW on shoreside farmland at Quanterness outside Kirkwall now also being investigated.

The scoping report for Faray is available at <https://planningandwarrant.orkney.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PQKQPZMD02E00>

The scoping report for Quanterness is available at <https://planningandwarrant.orkney.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=PQKRYSM02E00>

Appendix 4 - Staff event poster, August 2019

Introduction

This Appendix contains the poster that was distributed throughout Orkney Island's Council's main offices informing staff of an information session on 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' in August 2019. The poster provides the date, time, format and location of the information session.

OIC Staff Drop in Session on Orkney's Community Wind Farms



**Council Chamber
12 midday – 3.00pm
Wednesday August 7 2019**

An opportunity to drop in and see plans for community wind farms at Quanterness, in Faray and in Hoy. Staff from the Council's Strategic Projects team and elected members will be on hand to discuss the plans in more detail and answer any queries you may have.

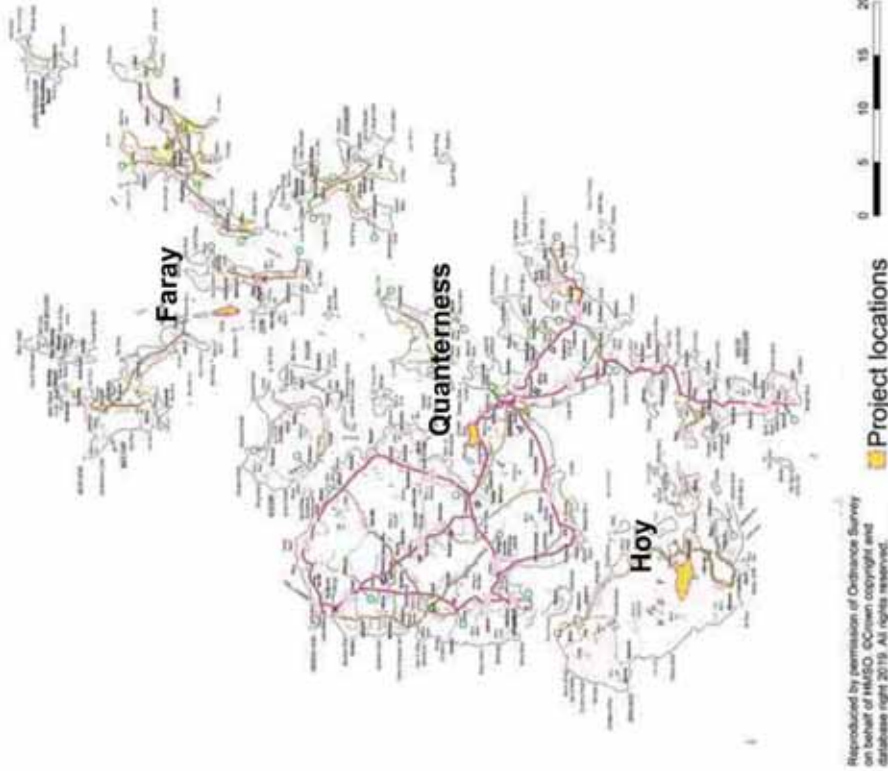
Appendix 5 – Information boards from May/June/August 2019 PIDs and staff information session

Introduction

This Appendix contains the information boards used at the public and staff events in Kirkwall, Rendall, Eday and Westray in May/June 2019, and the OIC staff event in August 2019. The boards contained an overview of the entire 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project', including information on the Faray project, as well as Hoy and Quanterness. The boards described the perceived benefits of the project and wirelines of the sites.

What is the Orkney 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 a 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.
- Early development activity will be funded from the Council's Strategic Reserve Fund.
- Three sites are under consideration.



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



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 reducing budgets and increasing demand for public services for everyone from the young to the elderly.



As well as creating jobs through development, build, operation and decommissioning stages, **all profit would stay with local people here in Orkney.** This money could be spent when it is earned to:

- preserve and enhance Orkney services like social care, education, roads and transport.
- fund an Orkney community benefit scheme which would provide a foundation for communities to drive transformational projects of their own.
- provide the local communities with a direct community payment for hosting the wind farm.

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."



National targets are:

- By 2030, the equivalent of 50% of the energy for Scotland's heat, transport and electricity consumption to be supplied from renewable sources.
- By 2050, to reduce emissions by at least 80% of 1990 levels.



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."

What are the benefits for Orkney?

Securing a new cable



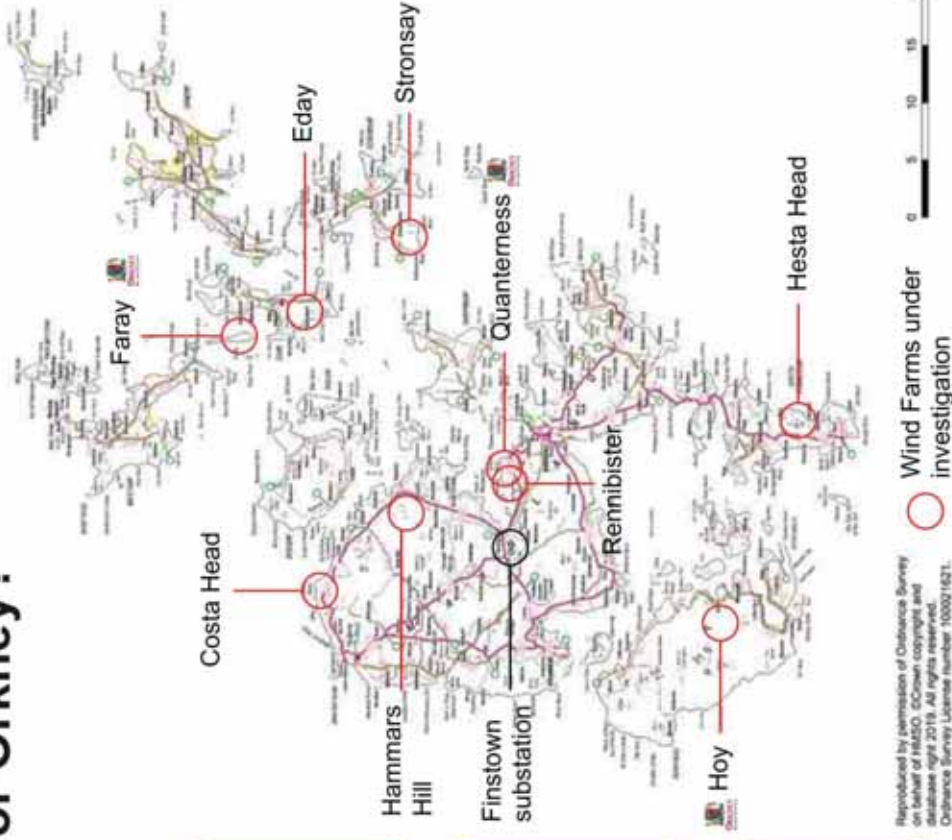
By developing these wind farms we can join other local developers in making the case to OFGEM for a new interconnector for Orkney, giving Orkney more chance of getting a new cable and all the benefits it could bring.



A new interconnector could bring hundreds of millions of pounds of economic benefit to Orkney, supporting our existing renewable energy sector and securing the future development of the marine energy sector by putting the necessary infrastructure in place.



OFGEM has said that to justify the cable Orkney needs projects adding up to 135MW, but we don't know all the conditions yet. It's likely that the Council will need to contribute a substantial proportion of this generation.





Why have we chosen these particular sites?

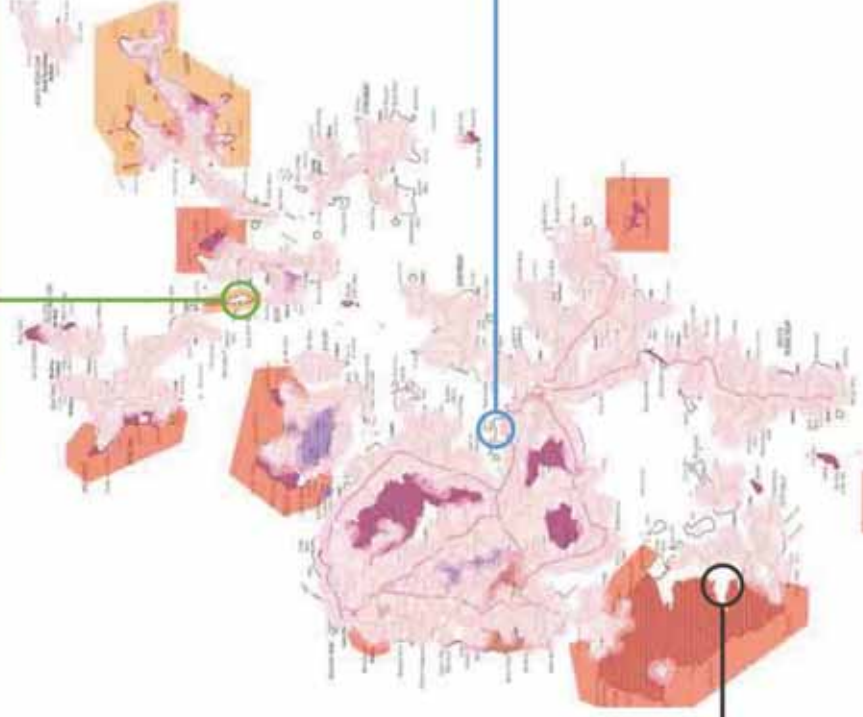
- Constraints
 - ✓ There are limited options for wind farm development sites in Orkney due to the spread of houses and designated areas for wildlife.
 - ✓ Some of the feasible sites are being developed by private companies.
- Scale
 - ✓ We need enough Orkney projects to trigger a new cable.
 - ✓ We need wind farms that are big enough to be financially viable in a low 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.



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

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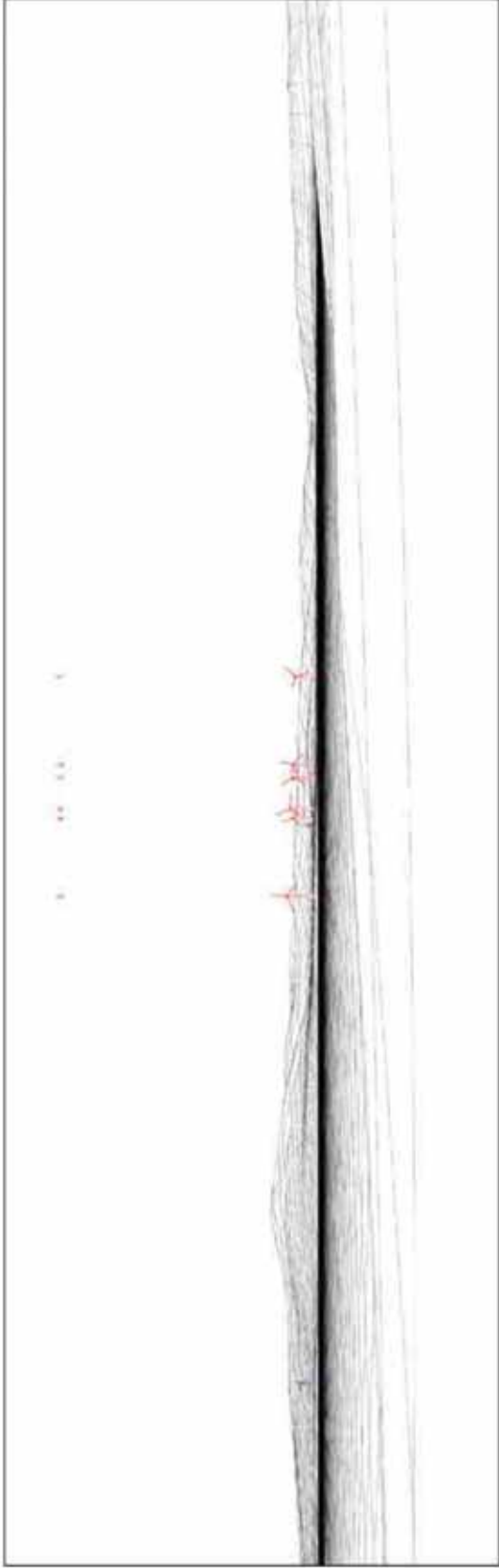


Please note

The next few boards contain wireframe visualisations of how the developments may look along with photos of the site at present.

Wireframe visualisations can only provide an indication of what could be experienced in reality. They are tools in the impact assessment process but are independent from it. They illustrate the likely change in view and, as such, to fully understand the likely changes they need to be used in conjunction with site visits and should be considered in the context of the totality of views experienced from the viewpoint and not just focussed on the proposed turbines.

All wireframes are prepared to be technically correct at a specific viewing distance that recreates the correct perspective geometry of the view available from the viewpoint. To accurately recreate this using the printed page is difficult, particularly as the flat page does not conform easily to the biconvex lens of the human eye. As such they should simply be **viewed at a comfortable arm's length and with the page flat.**

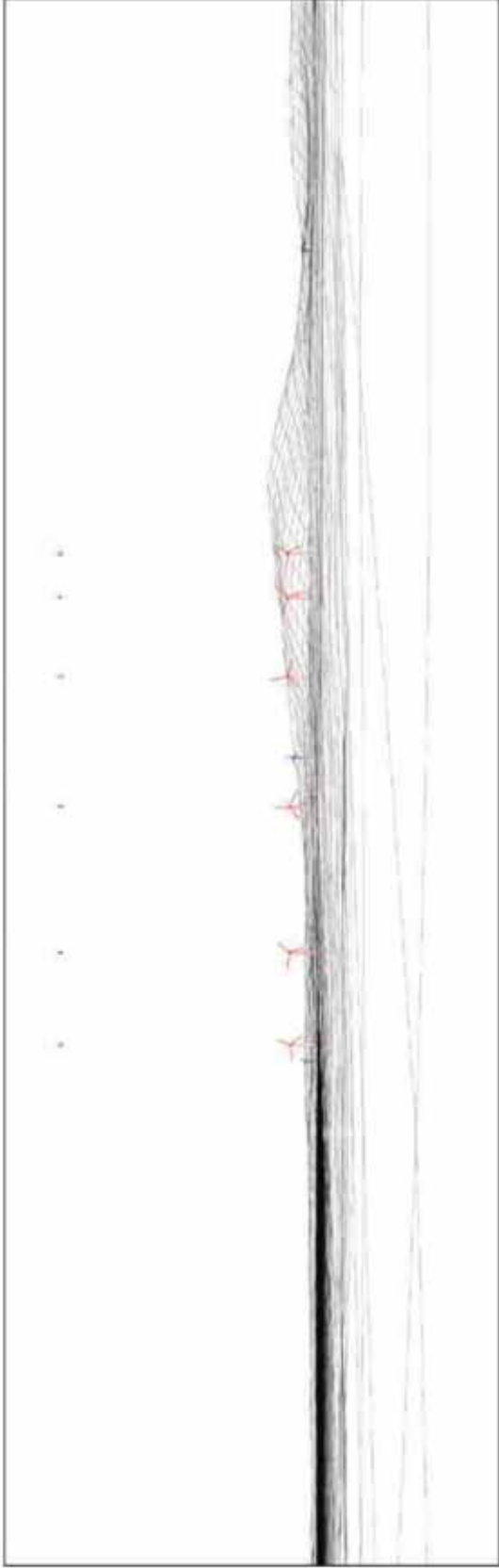


**Balfour Castle
to
Quanterness**

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 5,021 m
Turbine Tip Height: 150m
Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



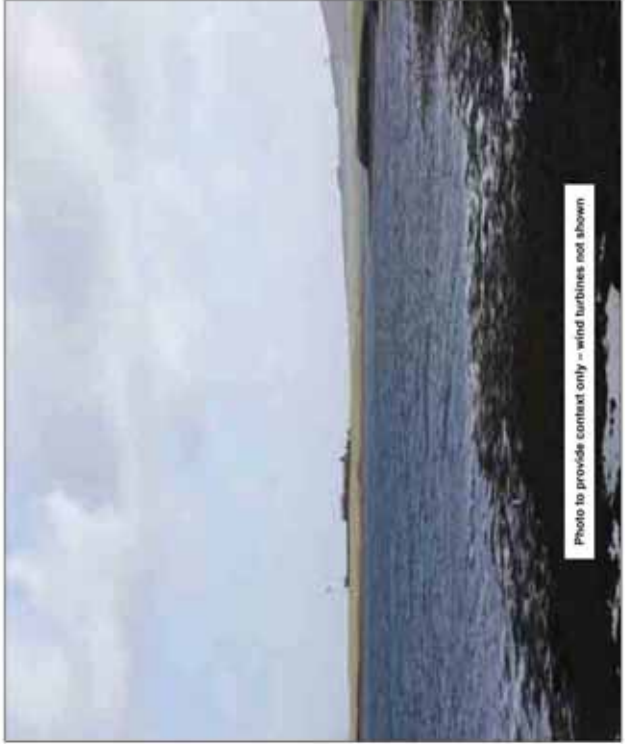
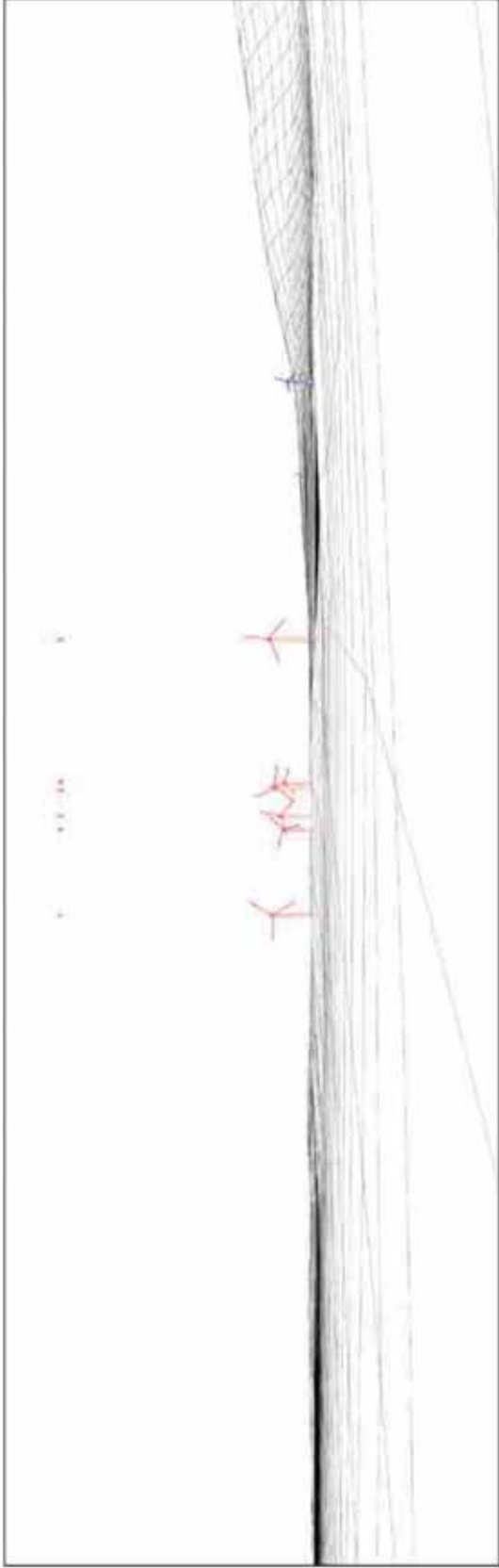
**A966
to
Quanterness**

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 5,244 m
Turbine Tip Height: 150m
Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



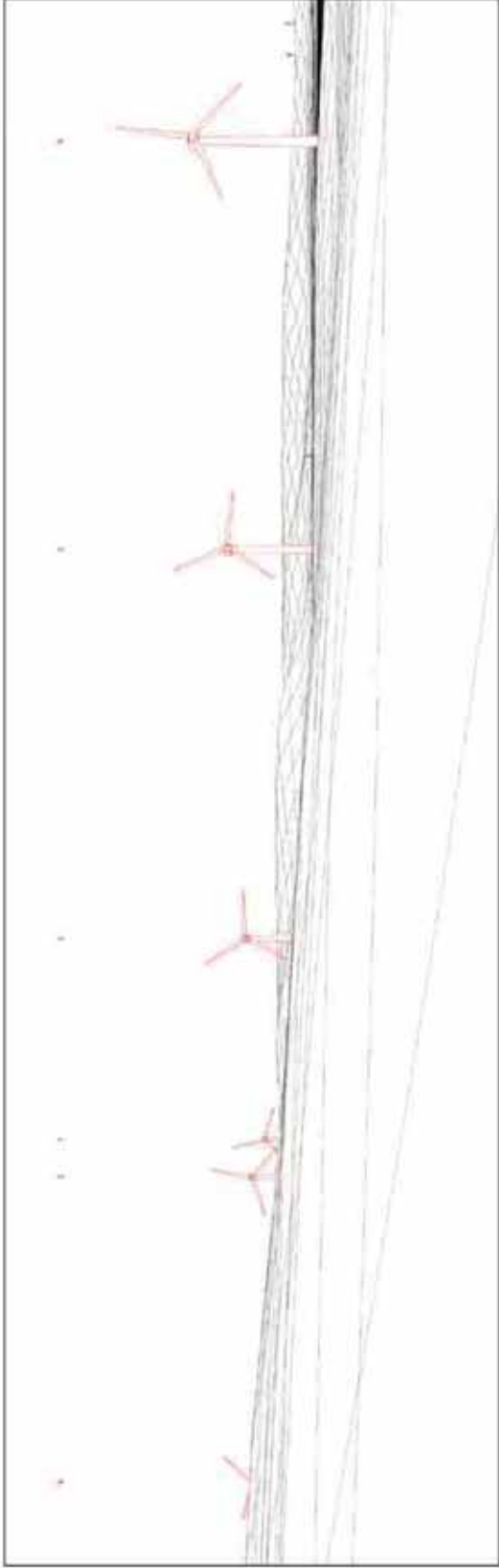
**A965
to
Quanterness**

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3,608 m
Turbine Tip Height: 150m
Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



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ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



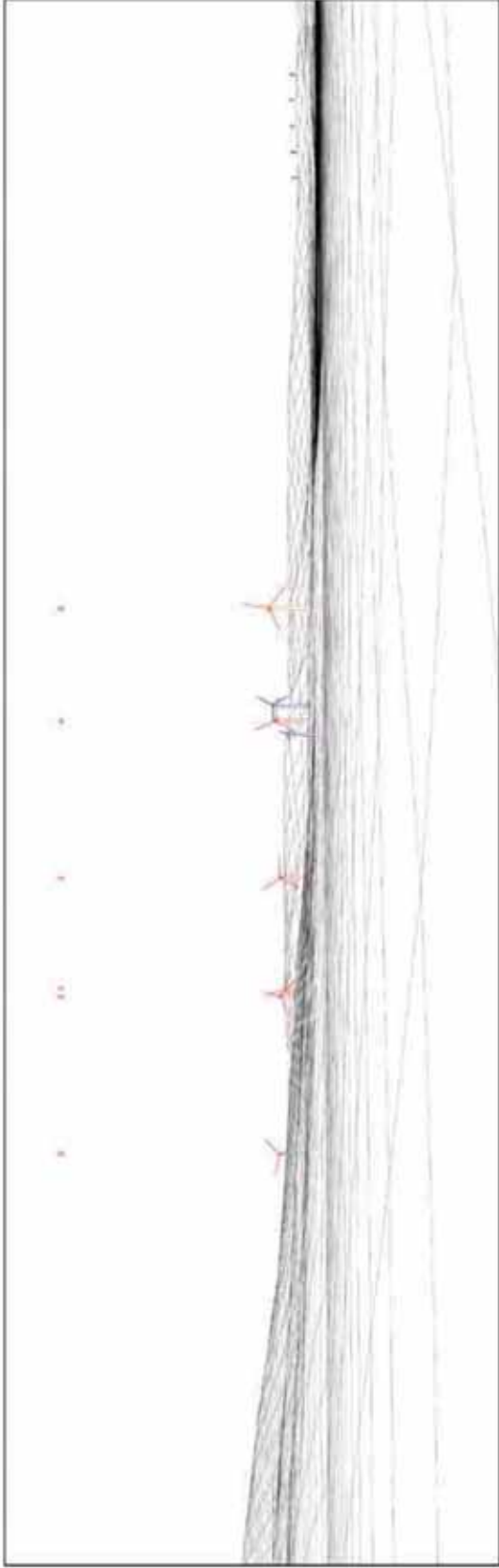
Kirkwall West to Quanterness

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 1,246 m
 Turbine Tip Height: 150m
 Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



Kirkwall Central to Quanterness

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3,618 m
 Turbine Tip Height: 150m
 Turbine Hub Height: 82.5m



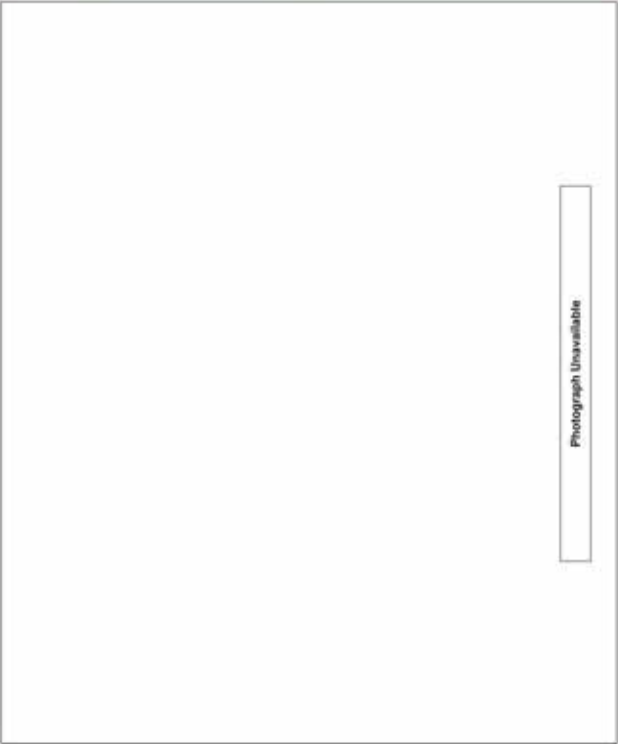
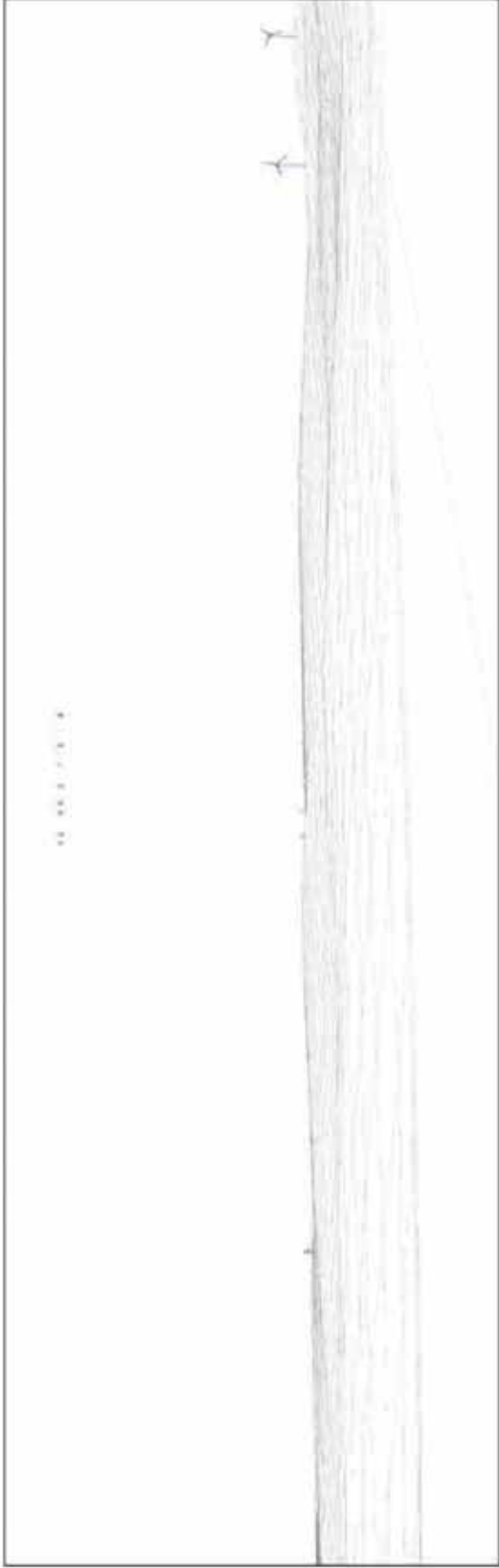
ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



Photo to provide context only – wind turbines not shown





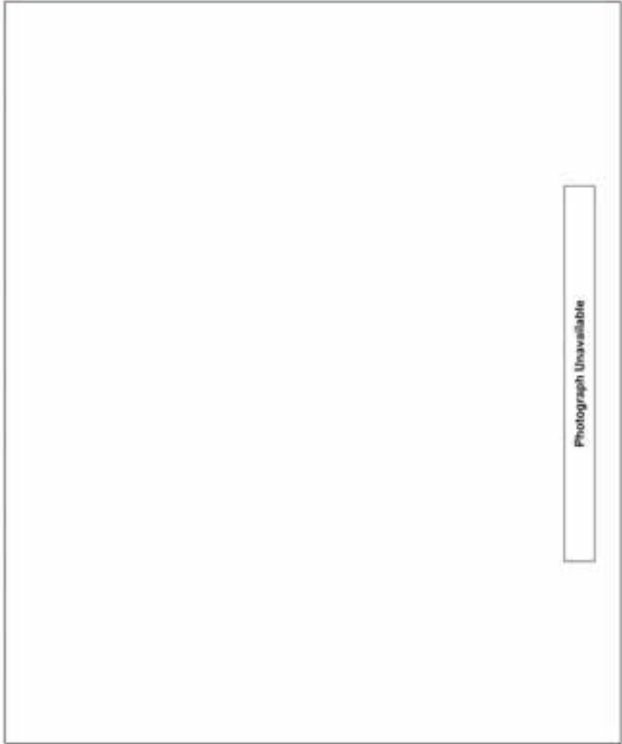
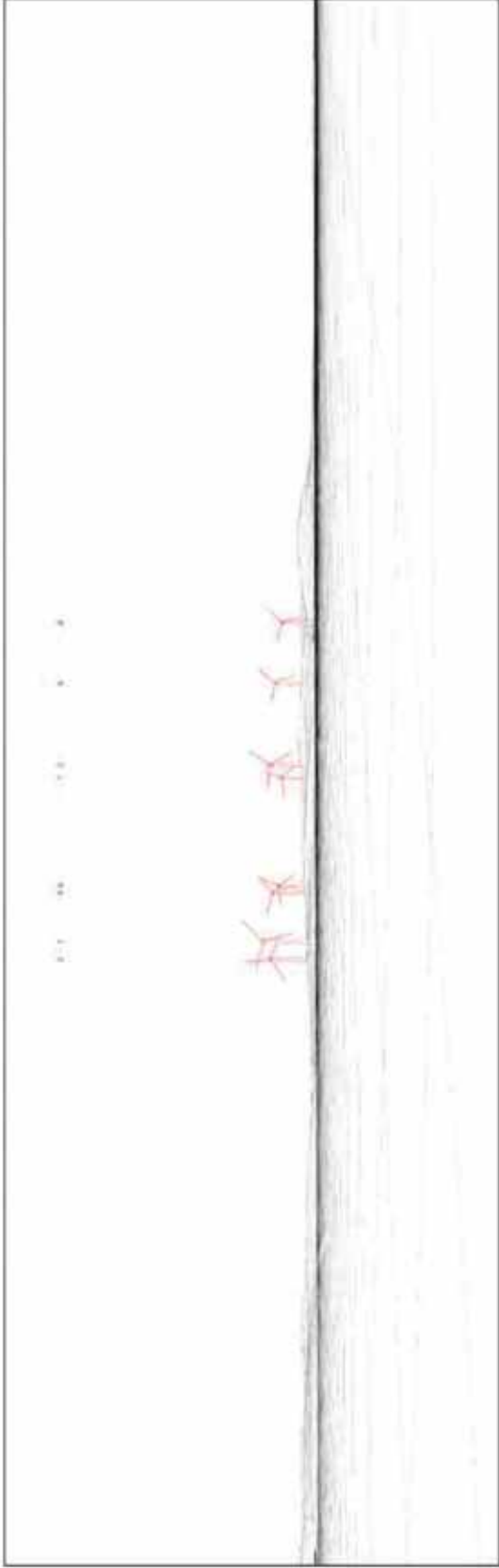
Noltland Castle to Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine:	14.875m
Turbine Tip Height:	150m
Turbine Hub Height:	92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



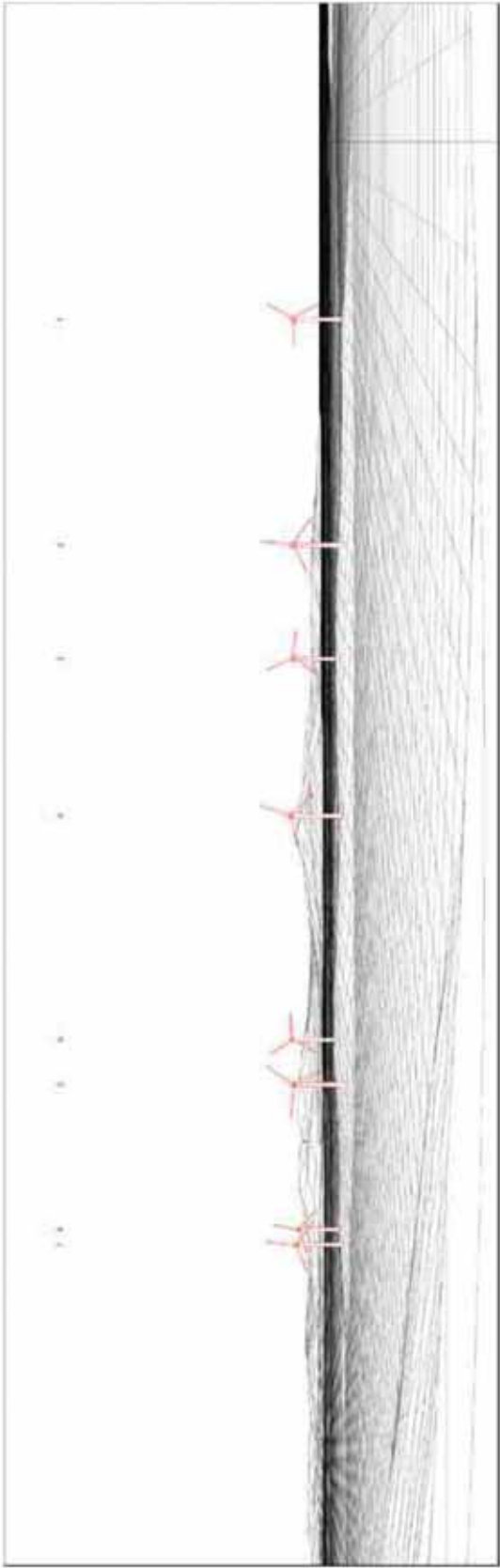
Westray Ferry Terminal to Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3,405 m
 Turbine Tip Height: 150m
 Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



Vinquoy Hill to Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 2,520m
 Turbine Tip Height: 150m
 Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

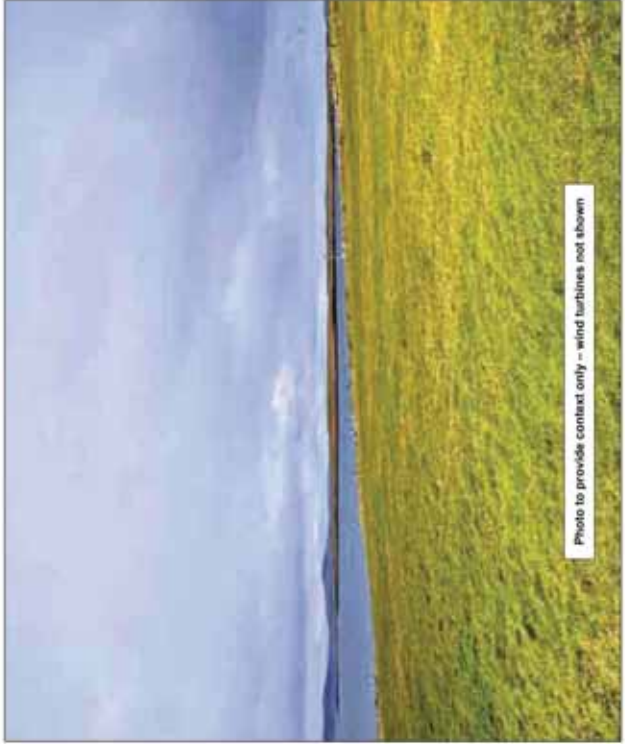
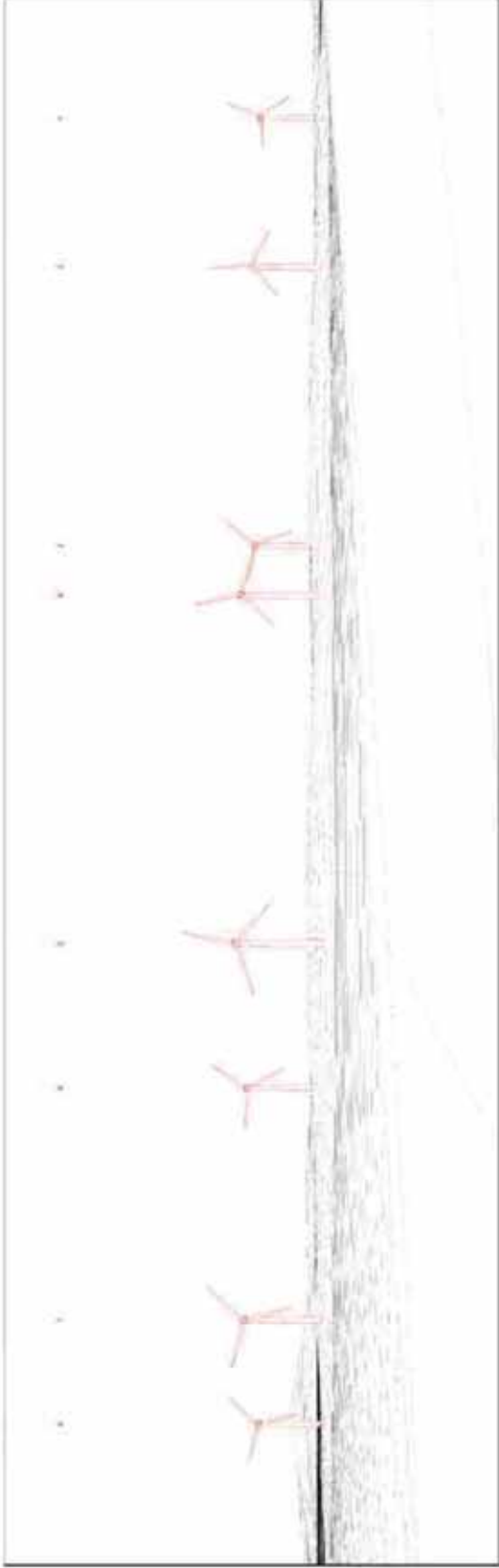


Photo to provide context only – wind turbines not shown

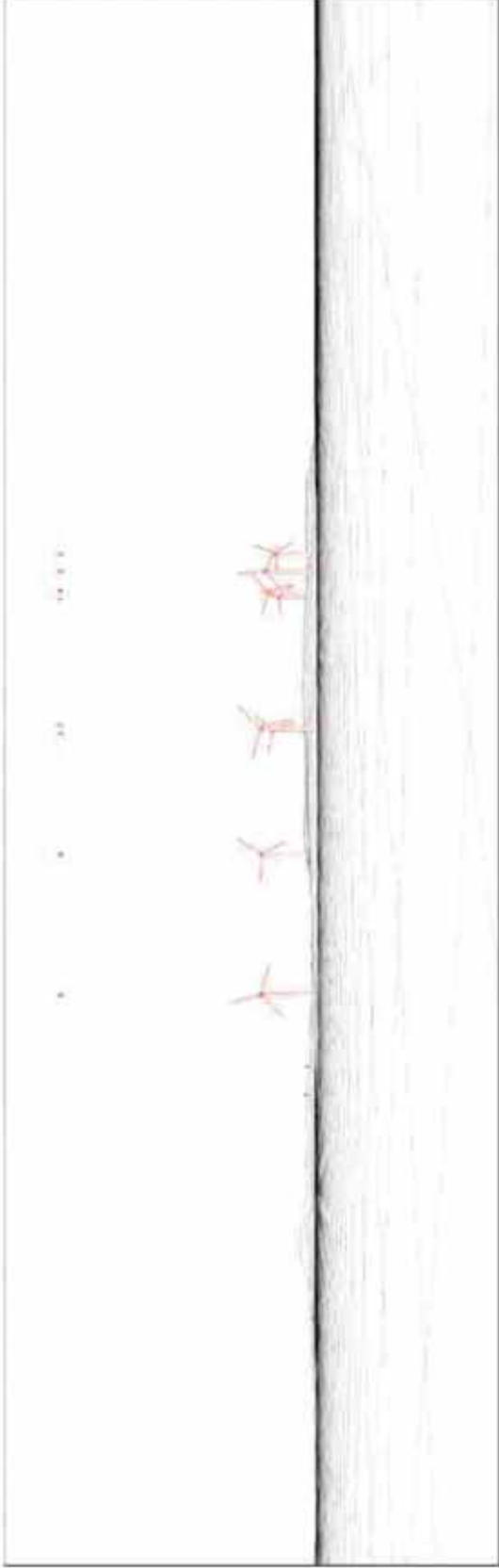
Guith to Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine:	1,728 m
Turbine Tip Height:	150m
Turbine Hub Height:	92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



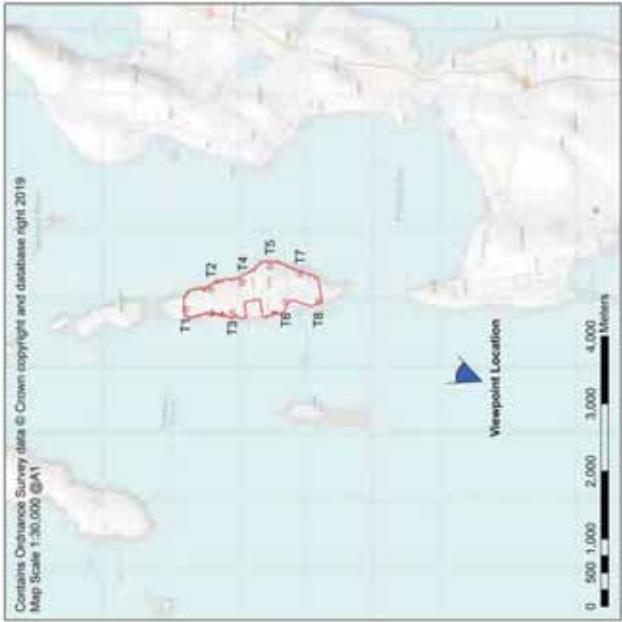
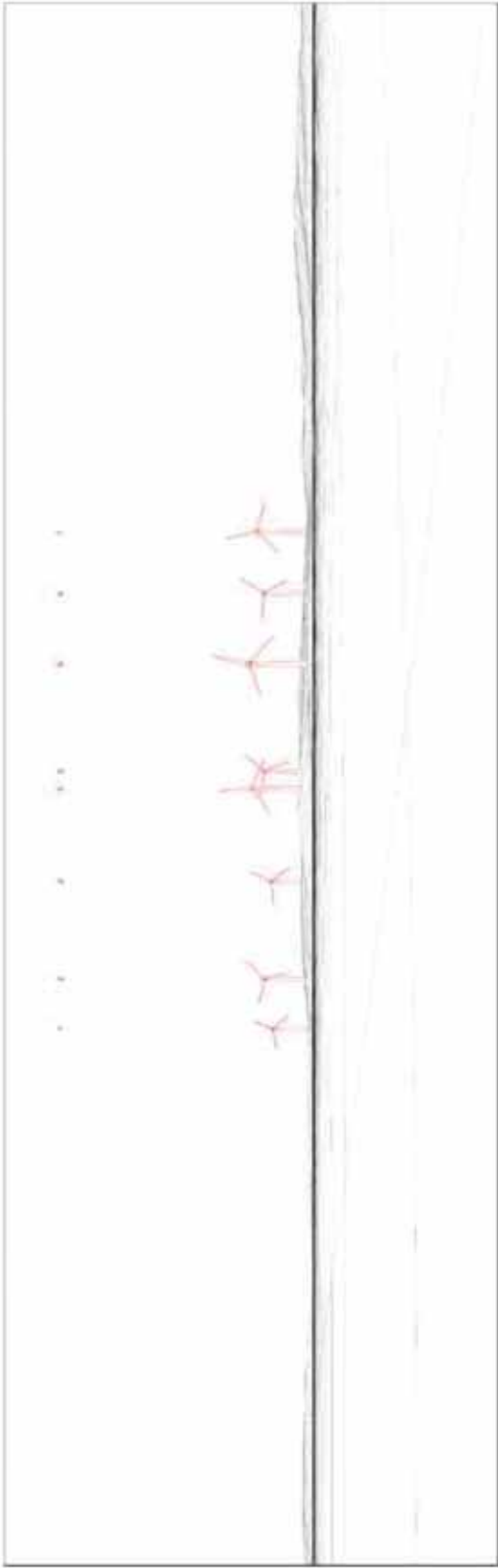
Sands of Mussetter to Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine: 3,035m
 Turbine Tip Height: 150m
 Turbine Hub Height: 92.5m



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project





A View from the Ferry towards Faray

Distance to Nearest Turbine:	2,657m
Turbine Tip Height:	150m
Turbine Hub Height:	92.5m



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Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Hoy Proposed Layout



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- - - Site boundary
- Proposed turbine layout
- Existing 900kW turbine
- ▲ Viewpoint location

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 km

Hoy - Latest Design December 2018

View to Hoy Wind Farm from Longhope Pier



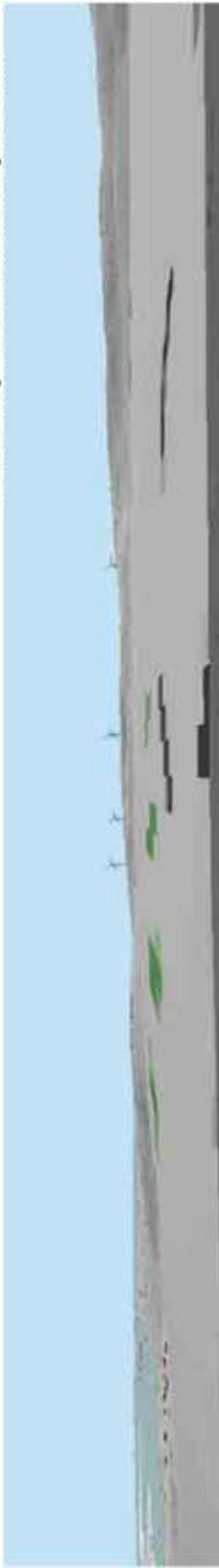
Turbine Tip Height 150m Turbine Hub Height 92m

View to Hoy Wind Farm from Lyness Pier



Turbine Tip Height 150m Turbine Hub Height 92m

View to Hoy Wind Farm from Lyrawa Hill



Turbine Tip Height 150m Turbine Hub Height 92m

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

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What's happening next?



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Appendix 6 – Feedback form from May/June/August 2019 PIDs and staff information session

Introduction

This Appendix displays the consultation form which was distributed at the above events for the Proposed Development in May, June and August 2019. The questions relate to ‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’ as a whole, including the Proposed Developments at Quanterness, Hoy and Faray. Attendees were asked to return the completed forms, with the option of including their names and contact details.

Orkney's Community Wind Farms Consultation Event – May 2019

Thank you for attending today's event. As part of today's session, we're keen to gather your views on the project proposal and get a steer from you on how you'd like to receive updates on the project in future.



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, then you contact us at communications@orkney.gov.uk

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

Yes	
No	
I am undecided yet.	
Additional comments	

2. Are you in support of the project proposals in Faray?

Yes	
No	
I am undecided yet.	
Additional comments	

3. Are you in support of the project proposals at Quanterness?

Yes	
No	
I am undecided yet.	
Additional comments	

4. Which area of Orkney do you live in?

Kirkwall East or Kirkwall West and Orphir.	
Stromness and the South Isles.	
West Mainland.	
East Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay.	
North Isles.	

I don't live in Orkney.	
-------------------------	--

5. **What do you see as the positives of Orkney's Community Wind Farm project?**
6. **What concerns do you have about Orkney's Community Wind Farm project?**
7. **Is there other information you feel you need on the project?**
8. **We want to keep in touch with the community as the project progresses – what's the best way to do this?**
9. **Do you have any other comments you wish to make?**

Name and contact details if you wish to include them:

Appendix 7 – Responses received at May/June/August 2019 PIDs and staff information session

Introduction

This Appendix contains a table showing the number of responses to a set of questions regarding ‘Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project’ asked during the above events in May and June 2019, and the later OIC Staff event held in August 2019.

Questions and Response Category	Response Numbers and Percentages											
	Kirkwall	%	Eday	%	Rendall	%	Westray	%	OIC Staff	%	Overall	%
	Question 1 - Are you in support of the project proposals in Hoy.											
Yes	27	72.97	12	57.14	14	63.64	12	92.31	25	83.33	90	72.58
No	2	5.41	1	4.76	2	9.09	0	-	4	3.33	9	7.26
I am undecided yet	9	23.68	8	38.10	6	27.27	1	7.69	1	13.33	28	20.16
Question 2 - Are you in support of the project proposals in Faray?												
Yes	30	78.95	12	57.14	13	59.09	12	92.31	23	76.67	90	72.58
No	2	5.41	3	14.29	4	18.18	0	-	1	3.33	10	8.06
I am undecided yet.	6	16.22	6	28.57	5	22.73	1	7.69	6	20.00	24	19.35
Question 3 - Are you in support of the project proposals at Quanterness?												
Yes	23	60.53	13	61.90	11	50	11	84.62	22	73.33	80	64.52
No	6	15.79	1	4.76	6	27.27	1	7.69	2	6.67	16	12.90
I am undecided yet	9	23.68	7	33.33	5	22.73	1	7.69	6	20.00	28	22.58
Which area of Orkney do you live in?												

Questions and Response Category	Response Numbers and Percentages											
	Kirkwall	%	Eday	%	Rendall	%	Westray	%	OIC Staff	%	Overall	%
Kirkwall East or Kirkwall West and Orphir	21	55.26	0	-	1	4.55	0	-	9	30.00	31	25.00
Stromness and the South Isles	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	10.00	3	2.42
West Mainland	5	13.16	0	-	19	86.36	0	-	8	26.67	32	25.81
East Mainland, Burray and South Ronaldsay	11	28.95	0	-	0	-	0	-	9	30.00	20	16.13
North Isles	0	-	19	90.48	1	4.55	13	100	1	3.33	34	27.42
I don't live in Orkney.	0	-	2	9.52	1	4.55	0	-	0	-	3	2.42
Not answered.	1	2.63	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	0.81

Appendix 8 – Qualitative Responses received at May/June/August 2019 PIDs and staff information session

Introduction

This Appendix displays the public responses to specific questions asked about Orkney’s Community Wind Farm Project, during the Launch Events held in May and June 2019 and during the OIC Staff drop in sessions in August 2019. Responses are separated and coloured differently between Kirkwall, Eday, Rendall, Westray, and OIC Staff.

Question 1 – Are you in support of the proposals in Hoy?

Kirkwall Responses

In principle support renewable energy including wind energy but think it is important to minimise impact of both wind farms and cables. That is, visual impact, environmental impact and archaeological impact. Tourism is the second largest industry – do visitors want to see the infrastructure. I would welcome the burying of the cables wherever possible.

The benefits outweigh the negatives.

Engage with the community and encourage partnership investment from local development trust, residents and individuals.

Providing it benefits the people of Orkney, charities etc., foodbanks no more.

Complete waste of resources.

The benefit from this must go to Hoy and not sidelined to other parts of Orkney.

Concerns over size, infrastructure, OFGEM response, trident lines, disturbance, environmental issues, awareness of all effects.

Hopefully not in Lyness

Eday Responses

If it is successful financially it should provide some cash for OIC

Ring fence % of funding for immediate local benefit (e.g. Hoy) - if suffer pain locals get the gain

As long as environmental issues are taken into account

Rendall Responses

Close to upland and protected areas (comment based on being undecided)

Difficult site, steep ground, access, maintenance, distance from connection, wildlife disturbance, visual impact.

Would like to know why if they could all be located in one place i.e. Hoy surely this would be more economical cost wise to erect them

Concerned about wildlife and visual impact

Appears to be a good spot

Good area for turbines

WESTRAY RESPONSES

Should have started 15 years ago

Firmly in favour of local area investment (including councils in exploiting a valuable natural resource)

This is not in my local area so I don't feel I can vote

Huge support - definitely - should be 2x size of what's proposed

OIC STAFF RESPONSES

Hoy is quite separate and protected (*had said they weren't in support*).

On the basis that Lyness or Longhope would be foreground for many visitors – both already an industrial or built up landscape/view (*had said they were in support*)

In isolation I've no objection but there are many current and proposed developments and it's important to be aware of them all.

Good site due to distance from communities.

Seems to be a good site and an obvious choice for a wind farm outside the obvious bird/wildlife issues

I don't have a problem with wind turbine farms however undecided yet

I appreciate this may have an impact on wildlife however a smaller scale development may be required

Against the height of the windmills and the visual impact.

Question 2 – Are you in support of the proposals in Faray?

Kirkwall Responses

In principle support renewable energy including wind energy but think it is important to minimise impact of both wind farms and cables. That is, visual impact, environmental impact and archaeological impact. Tourism is the second largest industry – do visitors want to see the infrastructure. I would welcome the burying of the cables wherever possible.

The benefits outweigh the negatives

Should also build causeways between Eday and Westray and install tidal turbines.

Engage with the community and encourage partnership investment from local development trust, groups, residents and individuals.

I was born on the south end of Westray and looked across to Faray every day and visited it when populated.

As long as it doesn't affect wildlife and views

Complete waste of resources.

Concerned about the extra costs of subsea cables from Faray – would this make it economically unviable.

Concerns over size, infrastructure, OFGEM response, trident lines, disturbance, environmental issues, awareness of all effects.

Seal disturbance during construction and maintenance.

Please leave remnants of dwellings in place and respect the graveyard

Eday Responses

If it is successful financially it should provide some cash for OIC - if something goes wrong on Hoy or Quanterness hopefully another site will still be functioning

Ring fence % of funding for immediate local benefit (e.g. Eday) - if suffer pain locals get the gain

As long as environmental issues are taken into account

Conditional on benefits dedicated to Eday

Still too many unknowns

Would lower the value of our property that looks onto Faray and is going to stop us building our dream home.

It would lower the value of our property and is stopping us from building our dream home. We are thinking of selling

Rendall Responses

Need to understand more about the electrical connection, cable routes, substation location etc. to be able to access the project in the round.

Expensive/distance from connection/wildlife disturbance

It will completely ruin our unspoilt views of the Northern Isles – imagine looking at the Northern Isles with the massive turbines in the forefront and very concerned that residents in Eday, Sanday, Stronsay and Westray do not realise the full impact this will have on their everyday lives

Concerned about wildlife impacts

Cost of putting them there will be more

Doesn't cost me personally and with no-one living in Faray – little visual impact

Good use of the island

WESTRAY RESPONSES

In many ways an ideal location to use

Firmly in favour of local area investment (including councils in exploiting a valuable natural resource)

Mystified as to financial viability.

STAFF RESPONSES

Against the height of the windmills and the visual impact

This is an ideal location

I don't have a problem with wind turbine farms however undecided yet

Seems a good site, as benign agricultural land and is sure to offer good wind yield

Need to work with Eday residents on the west side of the islands to support the changes to their visual environment

In isolation I've no objection but there are many current and proposed developments and it's important to be aware of them all

It's an untouched island – just sentimental I suppose. Would like more info about footprint on landscape at tend of life

If financially viable

Question 3 – Are you in support of the proposals at Quanterness?

Kirkwall Responses

In principle support renewable energy including wind energy but think it is important to minimise impact of both wind farms and cables. That is, visual impact, environmental impact and archaeological impact. Tourism is the second largest industry – do visitors want to see the infrastructure. I would welcome the burying of the cables wherever possible.

I would be very much affected by the visual appearance.

Residents' concerns re shadow flicker and low intensity noise must be addressed. Visually more intrusive on landscape?

Invite partnership investment from local groups, residents and individuals to build local support and buy-in.

On the hillside preferably and not on seaside.

Complete waste of resources.

It would be better to have a group than the single one that is there.

Concerned about the view up the Firth.

Concerns over size, infrastructure, OFGEM response, trident lines, disturbance, environmental issues, awareness of all effects.

Too near main road and harbor Kirkwall

Eday Responses

Hopefully a wind farm there would be used for some council property projects.

Ring fence % of funding for immediate local benefit (e.g. Finstown) - if suffer pain locals get the gain

As long as environmental issues are taken into account

Rendall Responses

Visual aspect tolerable but extra visual aspect of power lines – not good – underground cable preferable.

How can the OIC even contemplate spoiling our beautiful Kirkwall bay – oh bonny Kirkwall bay. First impression is a lasting impression. Same as the lack of grass cutting – do you really care about Orkney and its residents.

High visual impact but minimal wildlife or environmental impact

Vast visual impact – unsure if this is the best spot for the project. Recognise the pressure on space

It would spoil the view of Rendall for the tourists driving out from Kirkwall.

WESTRAY RESPONSES

I think there are better places

This is not my local area so don't feel I can vote but I support in principle

Firmly in favour of local area investment (including councils in exploiting a valuable natural resource)

STAFF RESPONSES

Potentially the most likely to have a negative visual impact for most people

Again this is (for majority of people) a built up landscape (Hatston/Finstown). Also seems to be logistically more likely to deliver benefits at less cost/outlay to the council (and ultimately the community).

Again, need to spend time with any local person who has concerns about visual or other impact and listen to them.

Obvious visual impacts to overcome both in terms of satisfying locals but also visitors alike

I don't have a problem with wind turbine farms however undecided yet.

Again, I believe this is an ideal location

Worried about the effect it will have on tourism as it is near where all the cruise ships arrive.

Against the height of the windmills and the visual impact – area is too flat for the height of the windmills

Question 5 – What do you see as the positives of Orkney’s Community Wind Farm project

Kirkwall Responses

OIC will receive funds to go towards community projects etc. OIC may be able to use the electricity directly from the Quanterness project. Orkney will contribute to the reduction in greenhouse gases therefore towards halting climate change (in a small way).

I know what I’ve been told but I have yet to see if the benefits materialize – the proof of a pudding is in the eating.

Financial resourcing of essential services.

As a source of income from outwith the islands.

Better for the community as a whole not just those who own land or have the money.

Wide county benefit – funds to protect services and address fuel poverty.

Renewable energy – the way forward. Income for Orkney to hold/reduce community charge for the future.

Reduction in carbon footprint (less fossil fuel use). Hopefully cheaper electricity and a reduction in fuel poverty. Needed to ensure new cable, more electric vehicles.

Generates money for OIC and green energy.

To benefit all in Orkney, to reduce our rates, to stamp out poverty in Orkney – no more food banks. Reduce our electricity bills, possibly by seeing what our bill is.

Resilience. Monies for local amenities and services. HVD sea link.

Use the significant wind resource for benefit of people of Orkney, rather than generating profit for external investors.

Making use of a plentiful resource and seeing it progress further in the future to benefit all of Orkney would be good to see all of Orkney people get a chance to invest on council run units even if they don’t have land to build their own.

Cleaner air

I like to see Orkney contributing to reducing carbon emissions and doing as much as we can on that front. For me the overriding benefits are the renewable energy benefits and reduced reliance on fossil fuels but the monetary gain for local benefit is a bonus.

Economic benefit if local companies involved.

None

Economic in terms of employment and community interests – including possible revenue for the areas.

Local financial benefit to offset the local disadvantages.

Local choice about the best place to build turbines – allows a more strategic approach to siting.

The community must benefit economically. The money must be ploughed back into local projects – I suggest community engagement is used to select those benefitting.

Council run so financial benefit comes to the council and community.

Climate change – if sea level rises as predicted much of Orkney as well as many other places worldwide will be submerged.

Orkney is already at the forefront of renewables – could be used as a tourist attraction.

I am not against renewables and can see benefits for the environment – think more can be done to look at alternative sources than wind farms.

Support financially to local charities.

Financial benefits to be used locally

Reducing carbon footprint and keeping the money generated in the community

Community benefit, people of Orkney feel that at last they are getting something out of the proliferation of turbines in Orkney.

A chance to harness some of our 'spare wind' to help reduce the fuel poverty in Orkney, also keeping ahead in the wind game worldwide.

Orkney producing more renewable energy and helping in the fight against climate change

Give enough baseline (with other projects) to cement Orkney as a renewable energy leader for a generation. Opportunity for people of Orkney to benefit economically.

Local income for the OIC etc.

Positive if it brings some finance into Orkney for the benefit of Orcadians

Potential to promote an income to council to safeguard and extend services.

Eday Responses

More financial security for OIC

Income for the North Isles

Make money for the Council. There are lots of demand on council money and extra cash would be good

Benefit the environment and reduce carbon in air. Help finance OIC. Help to make Orkney self-sufficient in electricity as long as the wind blows

Cash

Enables OIC to become more resistant.

Allocations ring fenced for isles could give guaranteed benefit to local isles (Hoy, Eday, Finstown)

Reducing our carbon footprint.

Revenue for our council for local services

Reduce Orkney's carbon footprint

Revenue for the council for local services

Reducing our carbon footprint, income for council to improve local services

Earning money for Orkney

Will bring in additional revenue that can be spent on EDAY'S infrastructure

Important that some element of community benefit is ringfenced for EDAY

Contribution to reducing carbon footprint

Carbon reduction

Income source

I can see the money generated would benefit Orkney but the Council don't spend it in the right way

None

Generate income for island projects

More money for new projects and services

Producing renewable power. The possibility of providing income for the Council. Possibility of reducing carbon usage

Green agenda, generating income for our community

Rendall Responses

Will keep revenue in Orkney

Job creation for OIC

An element of local input to project planning. An element of local control. Local employment. A revenue stream.

Benefit local community – community fund and jobs using our own ‘home grown power’.

All we have been told is that it will be spent on ‘services’, we need to know which services you are talking about.

Community benefits – protecting services

Community benefit essential - has been lacking so far

Good for the environment

Monies can come back to the wider community for essential services

Benefits financially

Income for Orkney and unlimited renewable energy

Boosts income and reduces overheads for OIC to allow to spend money on services

Enables the interconnector cable which could otherwise be delayed for years, open up possibility of further wind/tidal etc.

Community benefits – protecting services

Oli revenues have greatly benefited Orkney since 1976. Oil and gas supplies are getting less. Green renewable energy, climate change is now being discussed mainstream. Orkney is a windy place, a good place for wind turbines to operate efficiently.

Maintaining Orkney’s technical leadership, income generation, reliable technology

Income for local community

Hopefully cheaper power and lower council tax

Money for OIC

None

None

WESTRAY RESPONSES

Positive if Orkney people at large can benefit

Use some of Orkney's past reserves to make money. It's a proven technology which pays even when there is significantly less wind.

Get a new cable. Potential to generate income.

Money being generated will stay in the county

Environmental benefits and carbon reduction. Community income, benefit to council services. Fair use of local wind resources - as opposed to private developers at Orkney's expense.

Making use of a natural resource in wind (and others e.g. wave and tidal)

Financial cushion for OIC - help to protect services

Good council investment with positive outcomes for communities - prevention of council cuts.

Income for Orkney

Income and jobs for Orkney

Increased income and expenditure on Orkney communities: - hopefully leading to services that have been reduced being reinstated.

Increased and sustainable income for OIC, argument for increased grid capacity and new cable, more renewable energy is always good, hopefully expand into fuel, transport and heating.

Money – jobs

STAFF RESPONSES

Obviously the environmental aspect but whether it weighs up against how it will change the landscape in Orkney!

Bring economic benefit to the community

Hopefully open up the new cable

Money for community development projects

Community benefits

Local control

Helping reduce Orkney's carbon footprint

Possibly moving the general opinion of the population towards thinking greener

Future proofing and sustaining income generation for OIC to support and develop services for all in Orkney

Community benefit on hopefully a grand scale. Important boost to the case for a new Orkney – Scottish mainland electricity link. Opportunity to contribute significant amount of renewable energy, reducing need for energy from fossil fuels

Stop using oil

Decarbonisation

Helping bring about a better grid connection

Income generating

Possible tourism attraction especially Faray – seal watching, untouched island.

Economics

Progress to counteract current and future climate issues

Community benefits

Carbon free energy, financial income to OIC

Reduce carbon emissions

Support for council funding – less need for cuts

Clear economic benefit for Orkney and the community here – able to reduce cuts to services.

Environmental benefits – move towards reduction in carbon

Access to interconnector to export our energy, support for Council service costs. Need to do all we can to address the climate crisis (top priority)

Community ownership of wind farm asset, potential to see real direct social benefit and infrastructure that will open up further renewable development

Future of Orkney

Assist towards needs case for new grid connection

If a community benefit pot of funds being set up and distributed for local community benefits. Income being used by OIC to fund recycling

Funding back to the community

Income for the council/community

Funding to maintain council services, the community benefit from private developers is very limited.

The case for the new connector cable

With cutbacks of funding for services in Orkney by the Scottish Government this would be a good way to fund the gap

To generate money for OIC

Job creation/income

The project will allow for the increase in power generation in Orkney. It can only benefit Orkney for the future and the generation to come

Generate money to protect and enhance public services, improve renewable supply

Get the cable over the line

Maximise local benefit

Community benefit, low carbon approach

Income for additional services or projects in our community – cable to enable more benefits

Community benefits

IF the new connection to mainland Scotland is approved it will bring income to the islands and hopefully help address fuel poverty

Question 6 – What concerns do you have about Orkney's community wind farm project?

Kirkwall Responses

Cables should be underground, visual impact in the flat Orkney landscape is a particular worry, both the wind farms (wind generators) but also the cables linking wind farms to substations etc. The suggested size of the poles to carry the cables across the landscape are large and very high (several double decker buses).

The visual impact outweighs any hoped for benefits.

The third cable is not given permission to go ahead.

It's not supported by OFGEM etc.

If we (Orkney) does get the estimated millions it is squirrelled away in the Council's coffers and kept for a rainy day or used in grandiose scheme on strategic projects/

None in the main, slight concerns re Quanterness and effect visually on landscape and Hatston residents (shadow flicker/noise).

Aesthetic

Ensuring community buy-in

None – OIC should have been involved at the start of wind farms.

Spoiling Orkney scenery and wildlife

Public perception, sea colony on Faray.

That the proposals get diluted. That external large developers get the sites, should be for community welfare, adding to or replacing oil fund.

None at this stage

Mostly in relation to the potential impacts on the grey seal SAC on Faray/Holm of Faray. However having spoken to one of the technical experts she allayed some of those concerns or at least gave me a better understanding of the process involved and some of the challenges the development faces.

Environmental damage and financially questionable

The visual impact and negative aspects with regards to tourism.

The developments may be done less efficiently than with a private developer.

That the economic benefits will be siphoned off to council pet projects and not to go the local and smaller community projects.

Doesn't happen. Quarterness – a concern here being on the shore and affecting the view. Would prefer them up the hill.

I am surprised at the speed of this consultation – many folk will be unaware of today's meeting or unable to come.

Visual effects

Increasing number of turbines and infrastructure ruining the Orkney landscape and wildlife

The long timescale to go generating power and income.

Turbines are big obviously those close by will not be happy about them.

That the construction work is handles in a sensitive nature, regarding the seals at Faray. Keep pushing for the HVDC link

The trident type poles are not very pretty.

Eyesores to the landscape

Whilst in favour of renewable energy I'm concerned about the impact of wind farms and transmission lines on the environment of Orkney and the viability of core businesses such as tourism. What effect will income from windfarms have on annual block grant from Scottish Government.

Eday Responses

Need to ensure Eday gets the largest share of community fund. It will have the biggest impact and it's also in the parish

I would like to have some assurance that Eday would benefit from the Faray project

None really

Many people think that it will spoil the view, flickering, cost - try not to borrow too much, Faray is difficult to access

Poor execution

Ringfenced funds would encourage locals to approve the idea in recognition that those in pain are getting the gain.

As long as the environment is taken care of

Impact on the local eco-systems is considered

Visual impact and impact it has on natural environment

How will the money be spent?

It will have considerable visual impact on west side of Eday. The management of community benefit must be done appropriately.

That any income generated will pass Eday by - what is the benefit for THIS island. We seem to have a lot of projects (2 x potential wind farms plus EMEC site) which impact us and we're only a small island

Visual impact - now opportunities for local involvement in design, construction and maintenance

Spoiling the natural beauty of these islands

Where does it end, its spoiling the beauty of Orkney? It will happen anyway as you don't give a **** about the people it will affect

Sight of massive things

No concerns

Pharey is in the parish of Eday and Pharey and should get a good chunk of the money

Visual impact on those nearest - will the economies work out

Effect on wildlife, visual impact

Rendall Responses

How will revenue benefit everyone?

The public are consistently against large turbines.

High risk investment

OIC poor record in running business

Totally at odds with the Landscape Capacity report.

If it serves to enable the SSE 220 mW link it potentially opens the door to a greater volume of non-community and non-local projects, which I believe would be hugely divisive. Orkney needs a new grip link but I do not think the present process of fitting projects to the link, rather than vice-versa is a sensible way forward.

Disturbance to wildlife, spoiling visual landscape.

That their locations are very worrying and will spoil our beautiful islands forever.

Environmental and wildlife impacts – concerned about power lines linking sites

Just objections from others

Keeping it Orcadian and not swallowed up by multi-national companies

Need to balance benefits with visual impacts

Choosing the most suitable places. Balancing bird and wildlife sites with suitable sites for wind turbine requires consideration. Appreciation for and against a site etc.

We need to retain local technicians on RE systems, security of the new substation – enemy and terrorism targets

Visual impact

Quanterness project and visual impact on potential site

None

Orkney as an island is not big enough to absorb such a project

That it is unaffordable to people as an investment

WESTRAY RESPONSES

It seems by information received that at this moment in time we are all needing more information on each site.

A bit late coming to the table. Hope OFGEM does not move the goalposts again

Cost - viability

My main concern will be that the farms will be located in rural areas and the money will be spent maintaining Kirkwall

I'm concerned that there may be opposition to the Quanterness proposal on the grounds of visual impact. I think we have to play our part to reduce global carbon output.

None

None

Risk of dividing communities

None

None

Impact on wildlife

That the capacity in Caithness is also not enough to sustain more energy leaving Orkney. Existing turbines that are curtailed won't benefit - several owned by community development trusts who have direct community benefit.

It'll take too long - I'll be dead before it happens

STAFF RESPONSES

Mainly the height of the windmills plus the pylons going to the sub-station

It may possibly have a detrimental effect on tourism which is also beneficial to the community

The visual impact and potential impacts on tourism

Environmental impact especially on Faray

Obviously you have the usual public who complain/live in the past but as far as I'm concerned up here in Orkney we are a hub of all things renewable and we all must make sacrifices

Visual impact of Quanterness project but this is likely to be outweighed by the positive nature of the project as a whole

Are we entering wind too late – should we be thinking of other renewables

Impact on sensitive environments, I personally don't mind the 'visual impact' aspect – at the end of the day there are temporary structures

Potential for huge negative visual impact

Logistics for delivering blades to Faray

Getting broader buy in from the local community

Resilience to change from the wider community – needs a very sharp and positive campaign on this

Not ambitious enough. It would be great to generate all our energy needs and phase out use of fossil fuels in Orkney

Potential technical risk of install on Faray (pier access), public NIMBY backlash against proposals

How many people will object from a visual reason only?

Nothing in particular but Quanterness will obviously be the one that will require most public buy-in

The uproar it could create to local communities during them being commissioned

Visual impact, possible effect on tourism (Quanterness), infrastructure

The business case, can it be viable against the expansion of off shore wind

Not many – I understand the visual impact argument and view but personally I don't mind how they look and they are only temporary (25 – 30 years). Benefits massively outweigh any negative impacts.

None

None

Don't have any

I have no major concerns. I fully support the introduction of wind farms as a method of generating energy for the future

Minority views/anti-wind lobby swaying opinion

OFGEM regulatory changes

Short term nature of government policy

Overhead infrastructure. Preferable if cables were underground while recognizing increase in cost implications

Visual and environmental impact

The appearance on the landscape

Question 7 – Is there any other information you feel you need on the project?

Kirkwall Responses

Better pictorial representations of the visual impact.

Not at the moment, plenty more will follow no doubt.

Updates as it progresses

Just keep the public updated as the project progresses

I would like to know possible costs and perhaps maximum output and income from the project. A guarantee from OIC that the income generated would be used to benefit the people of Orkney and not as a substitute for existing money.

Can individuals invest in this wind farm?

Information on all sites to be proposed and not just Quanterness and Faray.

Not at this stage, information at this event very comprehensive.

Infrastructure design, turbine maintenance, provision of local jobs.

None at the moment, and as I was told there will be more information as it develops.

Not at this stage.

As Chair of the Kirkwall and St Ola Community Council I hope to have a presentation on the proposed Quanterness project.

Alternative ways for Orkney to reduce its climate impact – such as low methane cattle husbandry or hydrogen ferries – to allow proposals to be compared.

There is scant information provided at the moment. What is needed? Costs of construction and decommissioning. How funds will be dispersed? Timeline.

Yes. I would need a core study of all the benefits (monetary/social etc.) that such windfarms would bring our community and study of all the other effects and impacts including tourism etc.

Interaction with wildlife on Faray

Details of the connectivity of those and other projects

Would be interested in receiving newsletters as project progresses

Just to be kept in touch

Connection arrangements

How will turbines be connected to grid – distribution or transmission connection)

Full financial case – cost of construction, repair, maintenance, loss of interest on current investment, forecast income (high and low), time to recoup capital investment, potential life span, high and low estimate of community benefit

Eday Responses

Can see the pluses and minuses

No

Starting and finishing dates, where are harbour facilities to be situated

No

Yes - per MW installed capacity payable to the Eday community from Faray turbine.

How will the decommissioning affect the Faray

Not at the moment, but when things progress there is a lot more information needed for residents that overlook Faray

On the formation of community benefit/fund management. On cost of project and amount to be requested from the Strategic Fund

How the planning will work given that it's a Council project - how can it be objective

How does this proposal link with the other one on Eday

What benefit will come to Eday?

How much does the council earn

Yes, please keep residents informed as surveys continue

Rendall Responses

That this is not just some fantastical ego trip by the political leadership of the OIC.

For each wind farm I would hope that public consultations cover the grid connection including overhead/underground lines, substation, access roads and all associated infrastructure so that we can assess and understand each project as a whole.

Keep in touch through regular local meetings/ face to face interaction. Give as full a picture as possible.

Cost of erecting turbines, how long they are under warranty, operating cost, insurance costs and how much money will each individual turbine make?

Would be good to have another meeting when more decisions have been made.

No – would like regular updates as to what’s happening

None at this time

Total cost

OIC has outlines their reasons which I agree with on principle. Consultation and public discussions along with environmental assessments will all be required.

Preferred location of transformer stations.

More information on potential costs, figures etc.

Finance, benefits, costs

In the future

WESTRAY RESPONSES

Data on Faray site, access etc.

No, most impressed with the information and the presentation

Yes, but at this stage it's always going to be hard

Very good information - thank you.

How the income will be spent

How curtailed turbines are going to be helped, how will this project impact smaller groups applications for smaller turbine (e.g. one turbine supplying heritage centre)

I have more land if you need it

STAFF RESPONSES

No it was all very informative

More information needed on the power lines that are going to carry power from the turbines to the substation. They may have a bigger impact on the landscape than the turbines

Just general updates on the progression of the projects as significant milestones come up

How areas will be returned/restored at the end of life

How green are the turbines before the blades start to turn. It would be good to know more about the materials used through the manufacturing process, transportation and erection of the turbines. What plans (if any) are in place to help generate jobs locally in relation to these proposals i.e. in terms of maintenance.

Some further financials may have been useful even as estimates at this stage

How will community benefit actually be realized, what mechanism (i.e. direct to councils budget)

If info is frequently updated online should be adequate

Whether there will be more substations/pylons

The business case

Progress updates would be welcome

Estimated financial benefit, timescale, local political backing

More information needed on substation to site cables/infrastructure

Photographs showing location of turbines rather than just wireframes

More info on how the profits will be spent

Question 8 – We want to keep in touch with the community as the project progresses – what’s the best way to do this

Kirkwall Responses

Sessions such as this. Information available online. Public meetings. Meetings with interested groups e.g. RSPB, OAS, OHS, OFC etc. Film.

Email

Email

Every way – web, social media, public events

Local press or events like todays.

Email

Facebook OIC updates, The Orcadian website

Email, Radio Orkney, The Orcadian

Press - Radio Orkney. Personal contact for those who are willing

Orcadian and Radio Orkney online

Local paper, radio and orkney.gov website

On Facebook

Get the OIC website into a useable condition that meets 21st century requirements

Through a range of media outlets obviously The Orcadian and Radio Orkney but also social media.

Press, radio and community events – workshop type – regular updates

Orcadian, meetings and email

Not just social media. Press coverage etc. and in a timely fashion would be appreciated.

Social media

The Orcadian and Radio Orkney

Combination of press releases on progress and consultation events like this for major changes and developments.

Email

Regular information events and dissemination

Local press and radio, mail drop etc.

Eday Responses

Same as this evening. Please keep talking to us. Discuss with Community Council and development trust

Community consultation

Meetings like this one are a very good way of keeping people informed

Visits to Faray so anyone on Eday can see what progress is being made, occasionally send someone over to Eday to keep us informed

Eday Sound

Meetings

Letter

Keep us informed by writing in the local papers and meetings on the islands

The Eday Sound and Eday Scarfs

Face to face public meetings

Visits like this one

Paper, Facebook, public meeting

Through various channels: community council, Eday partnership, notices in local shop, Eday Scarfs and Eday Sound Facebook page.

Regular updates in The Orcadian/OIC website

Regular mail outs with space for response

Update us with news when there is any

Email

By letter

Eday Partnership

Community council

Rendall Responses

Email

Post

Email

Keep in touch through regular local meetings/face to face interaction. Give us as full a picture as possible.
Ask us what we need – i.e. community projects/funding

Face to face meetings

Newspaper, email

Emails or newspaper

Press release

Email

Another meeting in the community

Through OIC Councillors, community councils, local community groups, business community and young people in schools and Orkney College etc.

The Shows, public meetings as at OREF

Local press

Local paper, local radio, social media, regular meetings

Online, local media, more community events

Events like this and interviews on Radio Orkney

Every method, but no small notices pinned in the Kirkwall library

Using every method open to the council

WESTRAY RESPONSES

Give our Westray Development Trust information to hand

Through the Community Council and Development Trust

Community engagement drop in sessions - rather than public meetings.

Email

Local newsletters

Public meetings such as this. Keeping communities informed is appreciated and reduces the risk of objections/

Events like this

Through the Orcadian and Westray Facebook page.

Auk Talk - island monthly newsletter - contact Westray Heritage Trust, Westray Community Council get word out.

STAFF RESPONSES

Events like today are very helpful

Local media, face to face, but ultimately a thankless task

Through these workshops, through social media and the local national press

Local paper, presentations

Community events, going out to the public to keep them informed. Be open and transparent

Online microsite

Email

Via community councils, briefings in local halls etc.

Online, local press and local community venues and groups

Social media, press release etc.

You are doing a great job – drop in sessions are fine. The trick is to ensure people who have concerns are actively listened to – especially those who live near to the proposed sites

Email

Email

Updating OIC website

Drop in/internet/features in the Orcadian

Mini updates on Facebook and public events – really appreciated the staff event and just being able to go in and ask questions that were important to me

Internet

A mixed approach for all – digital and face to face

The present displays are very clear and being taken through the project by an officer has been very useful

Social media, newspapers, drop ins like this will all of course let the public voice opinion

Facebook probably

Email

By public consultations

Email, Facebook, video

Go out to the communities near the sites as well as consultations on line and in the mainland

Email to me personally, or via the Orcadian for the whole community

Question 9 – Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

Kirkwall Responses

I would like if the electricity produced is used to provide low cost power in Orkney homes. Orkney becomes, (I think the phrase is carbon neutral), that. That is Orkney produced its own power from renewables, supplies it to Orkney houses at a lower cost. I want any monetary gains to be directed towards social benefits e.g. facilities for the young, preschoolers, mental health, third sector etc. A fund to provide money to fill the gaps in alleviating fuel poverty e.g. a house needs repaired before insulation goes in and there is no fund for this so it doesn't happen.

Ensure opportunities for community co-investment.

I do not believe that tourists are concerned about wind farms – Westray has many wind turbines and tourism increases every year. Tidal energy is more reliable and should also be supported by Government and OIC.

Be able to buy shares into development, if not distribute income to charities, food banks, not increase in OIC wages, help with all cutbacks that are happening, avoid any more housing, Orkney is best place to come and live but let's not spoil it any more.

Infrastructure transmission cables should be underground as much as possible. Develop local version of Norway's Sovereign Wealth Fund.

I hope it all goes ahead for the good of Orkney.

I wish this project all the success it deserves.

In principle I'm supportive of windfarms but always thought (maybe wrongly) that developing wind farms was simply a revenue generating scheme conveniently located in remote areas. But I hope these schemes are different and can play a part in Orkney doing its bit in fighting climate change. It was encouraging to hear that the potential impacts on local wildlife are also being taken seriously and that the developments are being treated as a 'given' in terms of planning permission.

Abandon this impending disaster before it's too late.

Not at the present time but, no doubt, will do at future meetings.

The climate is more important than any feasible objections. Agriculture has a huge impact on Orkney landscape and wildlife, but is not seen as a problem, because it's been there.

SSEN has a 3D animated computer visualization for the Finstown substation – it would be great to have something like that to help 'picture' what it will look like.

Yes to council charging to charge electric cars. Encourage greater use of electric cars – more charging points and reliable charging points.

I feel the windfarms are better placed offshore or on uninhabited islands. Orkney is a beautiful place with views and landscape envied by many. The visual impact of the turbines is upsetting to many Orkney residents. There are various options to site them where the impact is minimal. I hope OIC do not take an easy approach when deciding where to erect the turbines. Be fair and please consider the benefit for the whole community for now and the future. I believe the majority of objectors aren't against the wind farms they're opposed to their location.

Feel that consultations should not just be Kirkwall and island based – this affects all Orkney and consultations should take place in other areas. Thank you for this consultation and the time Councillors and officials have taken

A pity OIC didn't do this years ago before private companies did.

I would like to see all renewables projects community/council owned so that we get some gain from the pain.

I feel that people will wait to see what they are getting out of it. Benefits should be widespread and diverse to appeal to as many as possible within reason, so that everyone feels included.

Please don't get disheartened by negativity

We need this to happen as soon as possible but we also need OIC to support private developers to get the grid connection needed.

Hope for success.

Unless a good financial case can be made I am not convinced that Orkney needs to be a net exporter of energy, particularly with development of more ways of using energy generated in Orkney (e.g. hydrogen plant). The turbines and transmission network are putting at risk out core businesses such as tourism.

How much is the electricity bill per year for OIC, how much is the wages bill per year for OIC workers.

Eday Responses

Please consider a fixed link to Westray - Eday is struggling in every aspect.

I would like to see the projects help to subsidise ferry travel and electricity cost

No

In Devon there's a saying - 'any fool can start a project, it's finishing it that counts'.

Good luck?

Yes. Please consider building graduate/Masters job shadowing into the construction so that the phases of the build can be stored, archived as part of Eday's renewable heritage. We are trying to build an education annex for Eday for all things renewable

Community funding to be shared to those most affected i.e. Pharay is in the Parish of Eday. An effective decommissioning is in place

Overall a good project with good intentions but must be approached with sensitivity

Important to try and utilise local residents/businesses during construction

I agree with the need to produce renewable energy. It just seems a bit unfair that such a small island is the focus - the island must see some significant benefits (infrastructure/better broadband/better air services/new ferries)

Long term plans can come unstuck due to unforeseen outcomes

We are thinking of selling up and moving before they get built - our land is Crowbar, Eday which is where we wanted to build our dream home

Our land is Crowbar which is where we wanted to build our dream home.

A causeway from Eday should be considered

Rendall Responses

Kirkwall Bay o' ugly Kirkwall bay

Wind turbines, dotted all along the shore

And we'll always shed a tear

When the boats are drawing near

For the Council's completely ruined Kirkwall bay (for ever more)

I hope the farms go ahead

I hope this does go ahead. I worry about the future of climate change.

Make consultations as wide as possible, reaching out to potential objectors. Presentation here is very good but limited to a fairly small, self-selecting group. Make sure that income is not deducted from central government support. Given current concerns on climate change, timing is fortunate.

To provide updates on the state of play over the next few years. Planning for projects has to start as it will be a number of years before things are up and running.

Starting this project is 10 – 15 years too late,

Your project is too late, listen to the people, our islands our future.

Make sure that the public's wishes are acted upon. Remember that the council is supposed to be working for us.

WESTRAY RESPONSES

Continue at the moment and if possible feed our islands with the developments coming through.

Hope it all comes to fruition. We are obviously pro-wind. Not everyone is. The community benefit needs to be clear for those sceptics to see.

ASAP

Great initiative - well done!

Incorporate an element of participatory budgeting into funds (councils have to do a % of their budgets this way anyway)

Communities vote on their priorities e.g. housing, improved roads, new school build - empower communities. Need new ferries, new roads (private owned ones aren't maintained)

Folk answering the questions were polite

STAFF RESPONSES

Excellent presentation – good luck

Feel this project would be good for the community

If there is scope to increase projects or find further development sites I think we should investigate to further maximise the benefits

David was very knowledgeable and informative – thank you.

The theory and principal are good but I have concerns about the height on a relatively flat landscape and the number of turbines across all proposals. When/should these go past their life span what plans are in place for responsibility to remove (more in terms of low carbon proposals)

Refreshingly open about the constraints and issues and concerns

Proceed

The presentation was well laid out and informative

I'm delighted the council are progressing this project for the benefit of the people of Orkney

Couldn't be more support of the project, fantastic idea

It is not clear why it is economically viable to do this project in Orkney when we could build the same thing in Caithness and not need the cable

I think other renewable energy should be more fully considered especially tidal power

Appendix 9 - Proposal of Application Notice

Introduction

This Appendix contains the Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) regarding Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Faray issued on 8 June 2020.



PROPOSAL OF APPLICATION NOTICE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Reference No:

Registration Date:

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008

The planning authority will respond within 21 days of receiving the Notice. It will advise whether the proposed pre-application consultation is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required. The minimum consultation activity includes consultation with the relevant community council(s), the holding of one public event and its advertisement in a local newspaper.

1. APPLICANT'S DETAILS

NAME	Sweyn Johnston Strategic Projects Director, Development and Infrastructure, Orkney Islands Council		
ADDRESS	Town House		
	Stromness, Orkney		
POSTCODE	KW16 3AA	TELEPHONE	+44 (0) 1856 852 271
EMAIL	sweyn.johnston@orkney.gov.uk		

2. AGENT'S DETAILS

NAME	Rebecca Todd Associate, ITPenergised		
ADDRESS	7 Dundas Street		
	Edinburgh		
POSTCODE	EH3 6QG	TELEPHONE	T +44 131 557 8325
EMAIL	Rebecca.todd@itpennergised.com		

3. ADDRESS OR LOCATION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, describe its location. Please outline the site on an OS base plan and attach it to this completed Notice.

The site lies on the island of Faray, approximately 1.3 km west of Eday and 2.7 km south-east of Westray. The site is centred on grid reference (BNG) 353112, 1036752 and occupies an approximate area of 310.97 hectares.

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Describe in general terms the development to be carried out. Outline its characteristics and identify its class (national or major).

The Proposed Development is a major development. It would consist of up to six wind turbines that would have a maximum tip height of up to 149.9 m. The total capacity for the site would be around 28.8MW. The design process of the Proposed Development is in its early stages and only preliminary environmental assessments have been undertaken to date. For this reason, the Applicant cannot be definitive regarding the turbine dimensions and the installed capacity of the Proposed Development. The associated infrastructure will include: access tracks, crane hardstandings, turbine foundations, underground cabling, on-site substation and maintenance building, a temporary construction compound, potential excavations/borrow pit workings and a permanent meteorological mast.

5. PARTIES NOTIFIED

State which other parties have received a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice and the date the Notice was served

Westray Community Council, Eday Community Council, Orkney Islands Council Roads Services, Orkney Islands Council Development & Marine Planning, Orkney Islands Council Marine Services, Orkney Islands Council Environmental Health, Scottish Water, Scottish Environment Protection Agency Planning Unit (SEPA) (North Region), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Highlands & Islands Airport Ltd (HIAL), Kirkwall Airports – Senior Pilot, Ministry of Defence, Airfield Superintendent and National Air Traffic Services (NATS).

6. CONSULTATION

Please give an account of what consultation is being proposed. State when such consultation will take place, with whom it will be and what form it will take

If deemed appropriate considering up-to-date COVID-19 related guidance, the Applicant will undertake a minimum of one consultation event within each of Westray and Eday Community Council areas. The Public Information Days will be undertaken in 2020, however the exact dates are yet to be determined. The Public Exhibition Days will be held in a local community facility at an appropriate time. Once this has been finalised all parties listed in Section 5 will be notified. Information boards will be on display and the project team will be on hand to discuss and answer questions on the Proposed Development. Feedback forms will be available. If COVID-19 related guidance restricts the ability to hold such events, then other means of consultation may be pursued. Any such alternative arrangements would be in line with requirements as set out by the Scottish Government.

The Applicant intends to inform the local community of the consultation event through advertisement in The Orcadian, on BBC Radio Orkney, on social media, on Orkney Islands Council's website www.orkney.gov.uk and will include all requirements as set by legislation. The advertisements will be issued at least seven days in advance of the event taking place. Westray Community Council and Eday Community Council will receive a copy of this Proposal of Application Notice and be invited to participate in the consultation.

A planning application for a national or major development cannot be submitted less than 12 weeks from the date the Proposal of Application Notice is received and without the statutory requirements having been undertaken. The application must be accompanied by the Pre-Application Consultation report.

**Development Management, Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY
Tel: (01856) 873535 Fax: (01856) 886451 Email: planning@orkney.gov.uk Web: www.orkney.gov.uk**



Appendix 10 – Press release for Faray PAC consultation options, October 2020

Introduction

This Appendix contains the press release announcing the launch of the pre-application consultation period for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray and the options for taking part in the consultation. The press release was issued on 13 October 2020.

Press release

Orkney Islands Council Launches Consultation on Faray Wind Farm Plans

Orkney Islands Council has launched a consultation on revised plans for a six turbine wind farm on Faray.

Initial concept plans for the development were presented at public events last year with various studies carried out in the intervening period - which have led to some changes to the layout of the site, including a reduction in the number of turbines.

The consultation is being carried out in advance of a planning application being submitted early next year.

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.

However, due to the ongoing Covid19 pandemic, the consultation will be carried out online.

With the Scottish Government having extended emergency legislation to allow developers to carry out pre-application consultation without the need for a face to face public event, 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 at Wee Fea in 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 and potential excavations/borrow workings.

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/FarayPAC.

A feedback form is available online at the web address above or can be requested by post.

On Thursday 29 October 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/FarayPAC 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 Microsoft Teams on 28 October and 4 November between the hours of 14:00 and 17:00 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 for the Faray project, however the current circumstances will not allow for us to do that.

"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.

"We carried out consultation online in May for the Hoy element of Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project. We were really pleased with the levels of engagement in that process and hope that we'll see that again for the Faray project."

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 30 November 2020 at 12:00.

Comments can be submitted through:

- The online feedback form referred to above at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC.
- 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 11– Advert for Faray pre-application consultation arrangements, October 2020

Introduction

This Appendix contains the advert which was placed in The Orcadian newspaper on 15 October and 22 October 2020. The advert included information on the consultation options available for members of the public including the dates and times of the virtual event and of the one to one Microsoft Teams sessions. It also highlighted the importance of the PAC in informing the public about the Proposed Development. It also encouraged the public to follow their interest in the proposal through to the application stage.

NOTICE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION PUBLIC EVENT



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

Orkney Islands Council intends to submit a planning application in early 2021 for a wind farm development on the Island of Faray (British National Grid (BNG) 353112, 1036752). 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, temporary construction compounds and potential excavations/borrow workings.

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 been extended to allow 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/FarayPAC
- A feedback form is available online at the web address above or can be requested by post.
- On Thursday 29 October 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/FarayPAC 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 Microsoft Teams on 28 October and 4 November between the hours of 14.00 and 17.00, 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 30 November 2020 at 12.00.

Comments can be submitted through:

- the online feedback form referred to above at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC
- 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

The deadline for submitting comments to the Project Team will be Monday 30 November 2020 at 12.00.

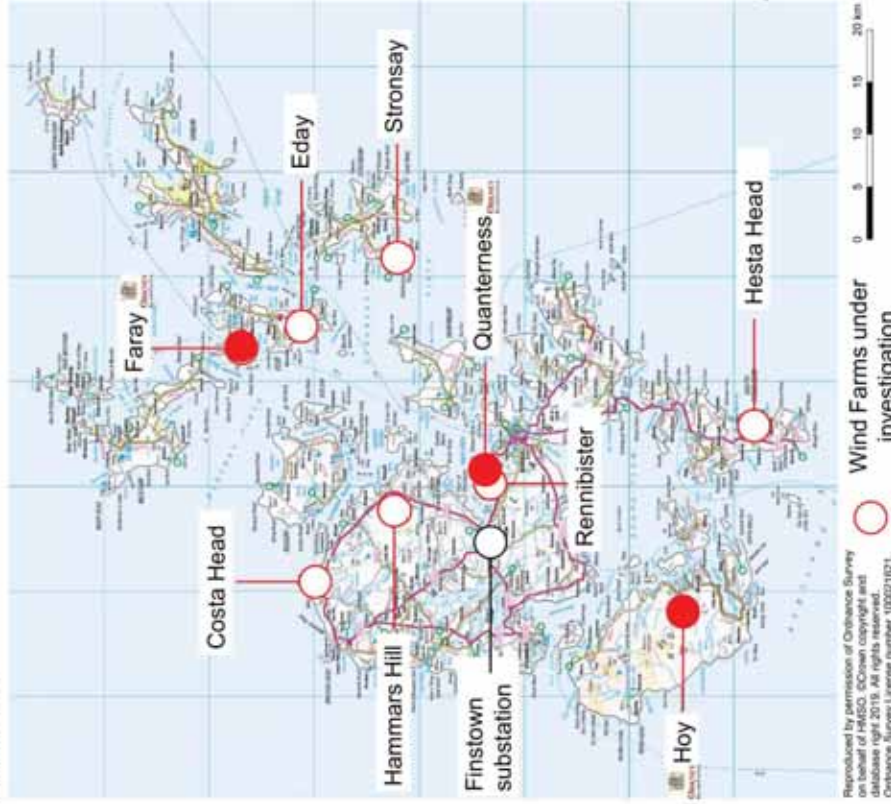
It should be noted that comments made to OIC through this PAC process are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken, and individuals and communities will have an opportunity to make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

Appendix 12 – Presentation for Faray PAC process, October to November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix contains the presentation that was used for the Faray pre-application consultation process. The presentation contained an overview of the entire 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project', as well as specific information on the Proposed Development for Faray, including photomontages of the Proposed Development from six viewpoints. The presentation was used at the online virtual event on 29 October, was published at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and in a video presentation by the project team, also available at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC.

What is 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.

Faray
Six turbines
150m tip-height
~28MW total
Council owned land

Hoy
Six turbines
150m tip-height
~28MW total
Council/privately owned land

Quanterness
Six turbines
150m tip-height
~28MW total
Privately owned land

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 include:

- 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.

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 showed 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. Initial analysis indicated significant potential for wind farm development.

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.



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

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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.
- ✓ Upgrade to pier facilities (to be covered under separate application to Marine Scotland).

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 and consenting process.

How could turbines be delivered to Faray?

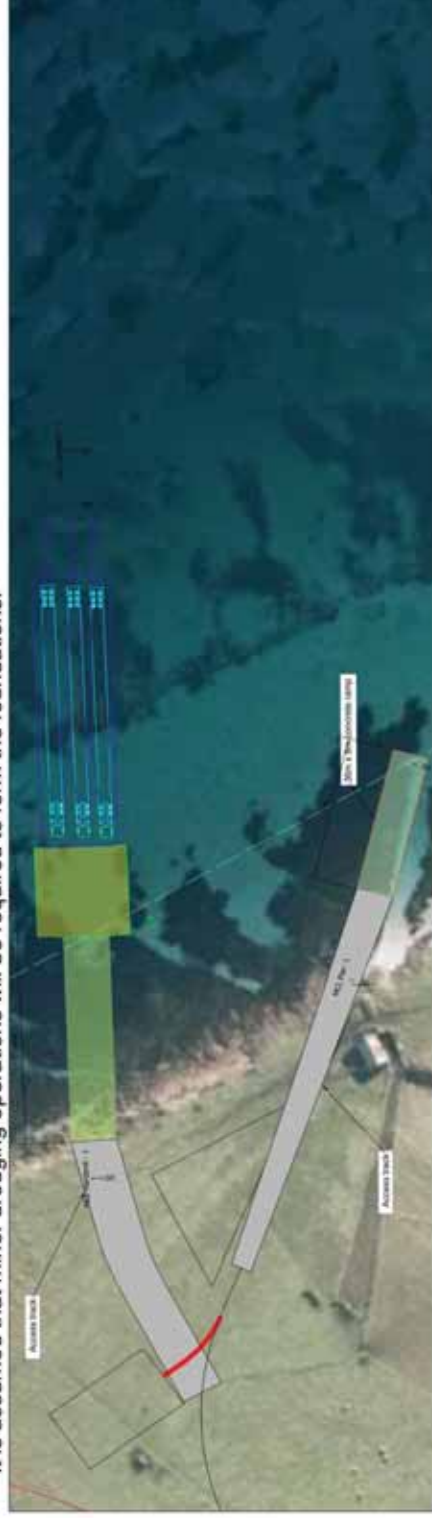
We are in discussion with turbine manufacturers and Marine Scotland on the potential pier structure for this development. Our current proposal is two stage.

Stage 1 – Slip replacement

- The initial equipment for the preliminary site works and pier refurbishment will be delivered to the site by landing craft.
- A new extended slipway will be constructed in the location of the current slipway to match other slipways in Orkney.
- Materials for construction will be sourced on site where possible. Other materials will be transported from Hatston, with concrete mixed on Faray.
- Upon completion of the slipway, all further materials and goods could be brought in via the new slip, apart from abnormal loads like the turbine components.

Stage 2 – Blunt-end pier

- Due to the dimensions of the turbine components a slipway is unsuitable for delivery, a blunt end pier has been designed which will accommodate vessels which will transport the turbine blades.
- The square structure for docking will be constructed on site from sheet piles.
- The link from shore to the blunt end will be in-filled and capped-off with concrete batched onsite.
- It is assumed that minor dredging operations will be required to form the foundations.



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
- Archaeology & cultural heritage
- Telecommunication links
- Transport
- Aviation
- Engineering
- Wind resource and turbine spacing



What are the key design considerations?

Landscape & Visual



- The site is being designed with due consideration of landscape designations. 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.1.6km.
- Consultation has been undertaken with NatureScot 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.
- The construction program will also be designed to be sympathetic to ecology and ornithology. With this in mind, we are proposing that no construction takes place from mid-September to mid-November (i.e. during Grey seal pupping season).
- Consultation is ongoing with NatureScot.

What are the key design considerations?

Archaeology
&
Cultural Heritage



- Heritage assets on Faray have been considered, with turbines being positioned away from the Chambered Cairn at the north of the island.
- Potential impacts are being taken into account in the ongoing design process, and will be considered as part of the EIA
- Consultation is ongoing with Historic Environment Scotland and OIC.

Noise



- The closest property to the area being considered for turbine development is c.1.6km. This separation distance will ensure that the project is unlikely to breach any regulatory thresholds - we will of course commit to taking action should those thresholds be breached in practice.
- Background noise surveys have been undertaken in agreement with the Environmental Health Officer at OIC.

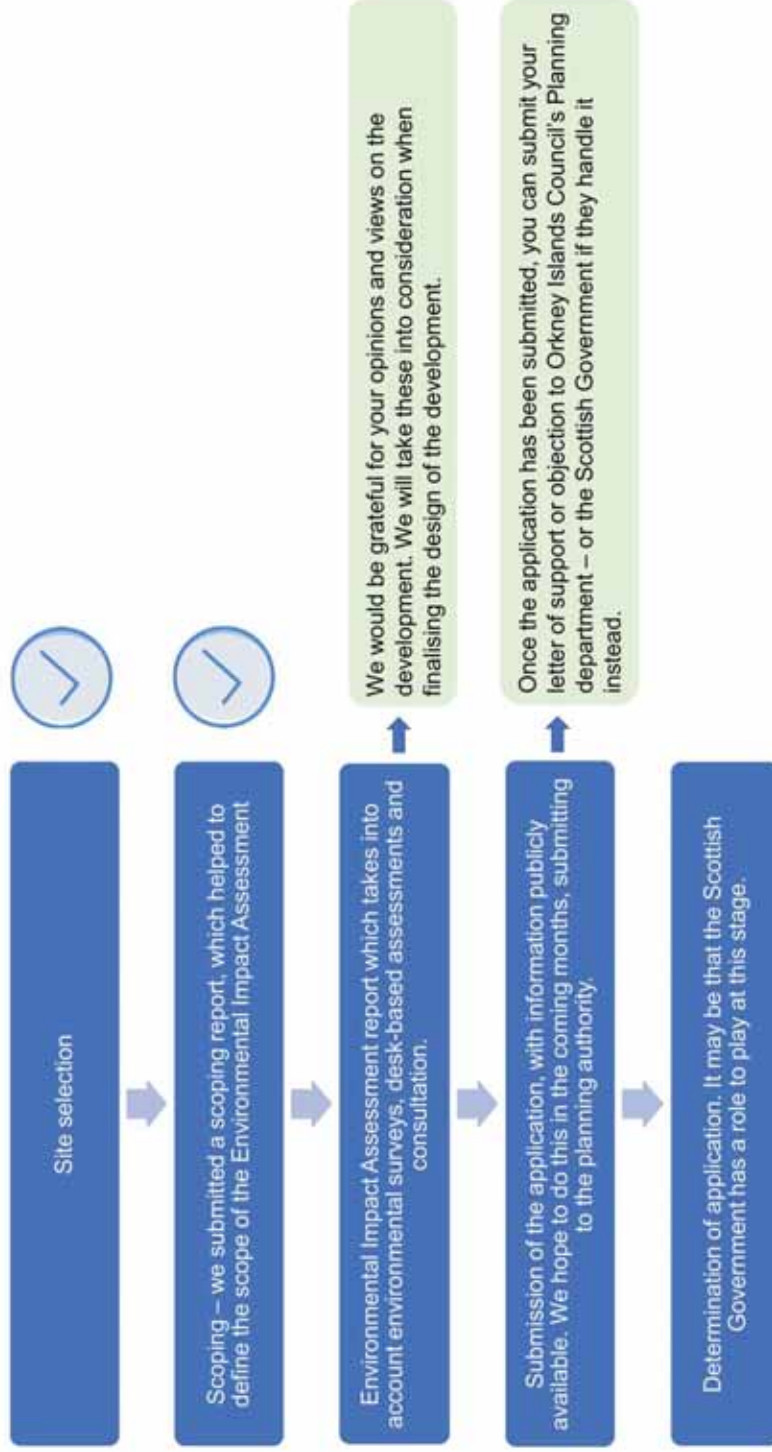
Transport and
traffic, plus site
specific



- A detailed analysis of the expected logistical requirements will be undertaken. This will consider the increased traffic levels during construction.
- We will agree a Construction Traffic Management Plan with Roads Services.
- During the design process telecommunications operators have been consulted to ensure turbines are positioned in locations that will not interfere with any links.
- The potential for shadow flicker effects is unlikely given the separation from residential properties, however this will be fully assessed in the EIA.



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



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Vinqouy Hill, Eday



OS reference: 356011, 1038103
Eye level: 73.26m AOD
Direction of view: 246°
Nearest turbine: 2.999km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Sand of Mussetter, Eday



OS reference: 355011, 1033466
Eye level: 20.45m AOD
Direction of view: 326°
Nearest turbine: 3.128km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Westray Ferry



OS reference: 351731, 1034215
Eye level: 3.5m AOD
Direction of view: 29°
Nearest turbine: 2.045km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project



ORKNEY
ISLANDS COUNCIL

View from Westray Ferry Terminal, Rapness



OS reference: 350871, 1040517
Eye level: 5.28m AOD
Direction of view: 151°
Nearest turbine: 3.676km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Ness of Tuquoy



OS reference: 346023, 1043292
Eye level: 4.22m AOD
Direction of view: 134°
Nearest turbine: 9.017km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

View from Kierfea Hill, Rousay



OS reference: 342319, 1032116
Eye level: 236.29m AOD
Direction of view: 67°
Nearest turbine: 11.286km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Appendix 13 – Guide to the consultation boards, October to November 2020

Introduction

This appendix presents the ‘Guide to the Consultation Boards’ document. This document was produced to provide further details on the presentation described at Appendix 12 above, 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 at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and provided in the postal packs to all households in Eday. Note this version of the document includes the description of Cusbay Road – a visualisation which was added on the request of Eday Community Council during the consultation period (see Appendix 24)



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Faray 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 – Faray. 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.

However, we are unable to do this due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

With the Scottish Government having recently passed 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 at Wee Fea in Hoy.

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/FarayPAC. 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 30 November 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 – Faray.

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.

However, we are unable to do this due to the ongoing 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.

The Scottish Government recently introduced 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/FarayPAC, 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 have been published in the local press, on social media and is available on the project pre application consultation webpage www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC

'What is 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project'?

The 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 Faray 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 on Faray in the North Isles, another in Hoy in the area around Wee Fea, 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 in Orkney.

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 early next 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 subheadings '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 'Orkney's 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 – Faray, Hoy, and Quanterness.

Faray has no residential properties on the island and came into Council ownership in early 2019.

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.

What else will be included on the site?

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

The fifth page of the consultation material is titled 'What else will be included on the site?' and includes a map of the potential site on Faray. It shows a full layout of the Faray site and explains the various components including wind farm components, construction components and grid connections.

On the map, we have plotted the six turbine locations (labelled T1-T6), the roads between each turbine and the other permanent and temporary infrastructure.

The permanent components that will be on site for the lifespan of the project are the six turbines, a hardstanding at the base of each turbine for the construction and maintenance of the turbines, an onsite substation which the turbines will be connected to by underground cables and a permanent met mast which will be used to optimise turbine performance.

During the construction of the project there will be some temporary infrastructure onsite that will be removed once construction has been completed. This will include a compound for materials and machinery, and a blade laydown area at the base of each turbine.

The turbines will be connected to the onsite substation by underground cables. From this point it is likely that we will then connect to the Finstown grid supply point. The route and method for this connection are yet to be determined and will depend on several factors.

It is too early in the design process to have clarity on what options may be available and the grid connection element of this project will be subject to a separate planning application.

How could turbines be delivered to Faray?

The sixth page of the consultation material is titled 'How could turbines be delivered to Faray?' and includes details on our current proposal for a two stage pier development on Faray.

Due to the relative remoteness of the site and the lack of an adequate existing pier structure, considerable time and effort has gone into developing a practical solution for the delivery of personnel and components to Faray.

After going through several design iterations, a two-stage delivery method has been found to be the most viable.

Stage 1 is the refurbishment of the existing slip. Due to its current dilapidated state it isn't fit for purpose and therefore we propose to remove the current structure and replace it with a new extended slip which could accommodate the type of vessels currently used in Orkney.

All initial construction equipment for Stage 1 will arrive by landing craft and a temporary construction compound will be sited just north of the slip.

For delivering the turbines, due to the dimensions of the turbine blades and the vessels required for delivery of components, an additional solution was required.

For Stage 2 we've determined that a blunt end pier just north of the slip refurbishment is the best method to enable the unloading of turbine blades in a safe and straight forward manner.

Our current plan is to use materials sourced on Faray and mainland Orkney for the construction of both the pier and slip and we'll look to batch concrete on site.

Further details of the design process will be made available at a later date as discussions between our engineers, turbine manufactures, and Marine Scotland are ongoing.

What are the key design considerations?

The seventh page of the consultation material is titled 'What are the key design considerations?' and includes a guide to the site with the key constraints of the site mapped out.

There is quite a lot to consider when analysing the potential impact on the local area from a wind farm development. These design considerations are listed in the key on the left-hand side of this page.

In optimizing the design of the site and producing the environmental impact assessment report we take all these aspects into consideration – which has led to some changes to the initial design we presented last year.

On the map we've marked with red triangles where we originally planned to put turbines and then the new turbine locations are marked as black circles.

As you will see there has been a reduction from eight turbines to six and that they have shifted slightly towards the centre of the island, moving away from the cairn to the North and away from the boundary of the natural heritage sites surrounding the island.

The reduction in turbines has also enabled us to optimise the turbine spacing and reduce the proximity of turbines to the local seal and bird population.

What are the key design considerations?

The eighth and ninth pages of the consultation material, also titled 'What are the key design considerations?' explore our design considerations in more detail across five broad headings – landscape and visual, ecology and ornithology, archaeology and cultural heritage, noise, and transport and traffic (and other site specific issues).

Landscape and visual

An important element to any development is ascertaining what the likely visual impact of these large turbines will be on our landscape. As part of the assessment we have undertaken a landscape visual impact analysis which has fed into the siting of turbines.

Ecology and ornithology

As wind farm developments can affect wildlife and birds both during construction and operation the potential impacts have been a key component of the design process.

Surveys carried out as part of our analysis have influenced the turbine locations and to reduce the potential impacts, turbines have been moved further away from the natural heritage sites.

The construction program will also be designed to be sympathetic to ecology and ornithology. With this in mind, we are proposing that no construction takes place from mid September to mid November, during grey seal pupping season.

Archaeology and cultural heritage

Site surveys have identified heritage assets on and around Faray, this has been fed into the design process and all of the potential impacts will be addressed within the EIA.

Noise

At previous consultations we had been asked about the potential noise impact of turbines this size on the homes closest to Faray. Initial analysis has indicated that due to the distance that the closest home is to the site, the potential noise levels that could be experienced are unlikely to breach any regulatory thresholds, and we will of course commit to taking action should those thresholds be breached in practice. Further background noise level studies are ongoing and will be reported in the EIA.

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

Transport and traffic (and other site specific issues)

Other aspects that we have been considered include:

- Potential impacts to traffic - these are likely to be minimal due to Faray being uninhabited and components potentially being delivered direct to site

- Turbines interfering with communication links - to avoid this we have been consulting with telecommunication operators to ensure that the turbine locations do not impact these links.
- Shadow flicker - shadow flicker is the flickering 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, it is unlikely that any significant impact will occur but this will be assessed fully within the EIA.

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

The tenth 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.

As you can see from the timeline here we have selected our site and provided a scoping report to the local planning authority in 2019.

Following feedback from the planning authority and multiple consultee, we proceeded to the next stage of this timeline, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA is an in-depth analysis of all the potential impacts that our project may have on the local area. This process helps us to determine the best design for all parties involved and takes into site surveys, desk top studies and multiple expert consultations.

As part of this process, we are also carrying out the pre-application consultation process which these documents are a key part of.

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/FarayPAC. 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 30 November 2020 at 12

The next stage of the process is the submission of the planning application which for the Faray site is likely to be at the beginning of next year. Once the local planning authority has validated the application all relevant documentation will be made available to the public and it is at this point that you can submit your letters of support or objections to OIC Development Management or to the Scottish Government if they decide to handle the application.

The local planning authority or Scottish Ministers 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 on Faray 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

Six of the viewpoints are presented in the consultation document – and a seventh has been added on the request of Eday Community Council, who requested that a viewpoint from close to Cusbay be included in the pre-application consultation material. Each slide comprises a photomontage to represent how the view will be changed by the proposed development.

Vinquoy Hill, Eday

This first viewpoint is taken from the chambered cairn to the south of Vinquoy Hill on Eday. It has been selected to represent the views of locals and visitors walking on the island's Heritage Trail. From this footpath, views extend in all directions and the surrounding islands of Westray to the north-west, Rousay to the south-west and Sanday to the east are clearly visible. The view looks south-west towards the small island of Faray, which is one of the closest islands in the view. Faray is where the wind farm would be located. The closest turbine would be just under 3km from this viewpoint. The photomontage shows that all six turbines would be seen, set along the landform of the island, and separated from Eday by the Sound of Faray.

Sand of Mussetter, Eday

The second viewpoint is located at Mussetter Sands on Eday. This is a broad sandy beach backed by high dunes and enclosed by rocky headlands. The beach is orientated north-west, such that it affords open views across Fersness Bay to the island of Faray, with Westray visible in the distance beyond. This is a popular location for locals and visitors to walk, and owing to the lack of development, retains a sense of peace and tranquillity. The photomontage shows that all six turbines would be clearly visible seen set on the island of Faray. The closest turbine would be just over 3 km from this viewpoint and the turbines would form a new focus in views from the beach.

Cusbay Road

The third viewpoint is located on the west coast of Eday, to the north of Guith and the south of Cusbay. It is representative of the views of residents on this western coastal edge of the island, as well as road-users on the minor coastal road, which connects Millbounds with Linkataing. The view looks west across the Sound of Faray to the island of Faray, where all six turbines will be seen at their full heights. The distance between the viewpoint and the closest turbine is approximately 1.9 km such that the proposed turbines will be seen as large scale structure, with the movement of the turbine blades forming a dynamic feature to the view. While the proposed turbines will become the main focus of the view, they will be seen in the context of the much wider view across Eday, and north-west to Westray and south-east to Rousay.

Westray Ferry

The fourth viewpoint is located on the ferry between Kirkwall and Westray at a point approximately 2 km south-west of Faray. It has been selected to represent the views of ferry passengers travelling between Mainland Orkney and the northern isles. Views from the ferry are open and expansive, extending across Westray Firth to take in the surrounding islands, including Rousay to the west, Eday to the east, Westray to the north-west and Faray to the north. The photomontage shows that all six turbines would be clearly visible, seen set on the small island of Faray. With the closest turbine approximately 2 km from the viewpoint, the proposed turbines would form a focal feature in views from passing ferries.

Westray Ferry Terminal

The fifth viewpoint is located at Rapness on Westray, on the southern coastal edge near the ferry pier. This coastline is enclosed by rocky headlands to the west and east, such that views are channelled south-east across Rapness Sound to the island of Faray, with the island of Eday seen behind. While this coastline is rural in character, the presence and activity of the ferry terminal, presents also a more developed character. The photomontage shows that all six turbines would be visible, seen set on the small island of Faray, separated from Westray by the Rapness Sound. The closest turbine would be approximately 3.6 km from this viewpoint and the turbines would form a new focus in views from this coastal edge.

Ness of Tuquoy

The sixth viewpoint is located on the coastal edge at Ness of Tuquoy on the south side of Westray. The Ness of Tuquoy forms the rocky headland on the southern side of the Bay of Tuquoy. This is a rural landscape with farmland extending up to the coastal edge and small-scale development in the hinterland. Three operational turbines are set in the landscape to the north. The viewpoint is representative of the views of local residents and walkers. The view looks south-east over Westray Firth. The photomontage shows that all six of the turbines would be visible, seen set behind the south-west peninsula of Westray and with Eday in the background. The closest turbine is approximately 9 km from the viewpoint and despite the distance, they would appear as tall vertical structures.

Kierfea Hill, Rousay

The seventh viewpoint is located on Kierfea Hill, in the north-east corner of Rousay. At 235 m this is the highest hill on Rousay and from the top, expansive views open up in all directions. Views extend over the moorland interior of the island, but also north to Westray, east to Egilsay and Eday and north-east to Faray. The viewpoint has been selected to represent the views of walkers on Kierfea Hill, but also residents and road-users in this north-eastern part of the island. The closest turbine would be just over 11 km from this viewpoint and the turbines would form a new focus in views from the hill. The photomontage shows that all six turbines would be seen set along the low-lying island of Faray, with the five Spurness Wind Farm turbines visible on Sanday in the background.

Appendix 14 – Feedback form for Faray pre-application consultation, October to November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix displays the consultation form that was used for the pre-application consultation. The consultation form was available in online format through SmartSurvey, with a downloadable and printable version also made available on the Council website at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC and available for sending out by post. The feedback form was also included in the postal pack to households in Eday. 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 – Faray

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/FarayPAC. 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/FarayPAC.

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 30 November 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 on Faray?

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 or by phone 07818 508323

Appendix 15 – Online survey responses, October to November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix contains a table showing the number of responses to a set of questions regarding Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray 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.	32.14%	9
2	Article in The Orcadian.	32.14%	9
3	Radio Orkney news.	17.86%	5
4	Radio Orkney Daily Diary.	0.00%	0
5	Social media.	42.86%	12
6	An email from the project team.	7.14%	2
7	Word of mouth.	21.43%	6
8	Community Council meeting.	10.71%	3
9	On the Orcadian website.	0.00%	0
10	On the Council website.	3.57%	1

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

	Agree.	Agree to an extent.	Disagree.	Response Total
The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative.	39.3% (11)	35.7% (10)	25.0% (7)	28
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.	35.7% (10)	14.3% (4)	50.0% (14)	28
Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.	46.4% (13)	17.9% (5)	35.7% (10)	28
I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.	64.3% (18)	28.6% (8)	7.1% (2)	28
Comments:				
<p>My interest in this scheme is because my maternal grandfather, John Hercus was born on Doggerboat (site of turbine 1).</p> <p>I joined the consultation webinar and was very impressed with the professionalism of all in the Council who are involved in the project.</p> <p>I am an Orkneyphile who loves visiting the County. The main concern I have with the project is the visible effect of the turbines on the views however I fully appreciate the economic argument for producing electricity and why it is so important to the County and that views don't necessarily produce money, other than from tourists.</p>				
<p>How can windmills be put on Faray ? A site of Special Scientific Interest</p>				




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




	Agree.	Agree to an extent.	Disagree.	Response Total
<p>Money could be spent more wisely on things like over-topping at the 2nd barrier. There are already enough turbines in Orkney for a cable to the mainland, we don't need more.</p>				
<p>I think it will benefit big business more than local economy. It will hurt the local economy as it will make Orkney much less naturally attractive.</p>				
<p>This proposed development is in no way beneficial to the environment. It will completely ruin a small island and deem it uninhabitable for years to come.</p>				
<p>The information provides an overview but does not provide any details: Mentions ""potential to generate a significant income"" but provides not detail or basic forecasts. Achieving profit ""as soon as reasonably practicable"" gives not estimated cost, timescale or value required to break even. States ""All profit would stay in Orkney"" surely inaccurate - manufacturers and suppliers are not based in Orkney.</p>				
<p>Bringing a New Cable will be beneficial: Simply stating this as your belief does not tell me how it is a benefit - please explain.</p>				
<p>I watched the video presentation online and thought it was very thorough.</p>				
<p>We need to do something now to tackle climate change. Renewable energy is the way forward. If through a policy of investing in renewables we can secure this cable and can also generate income and some employment then this has to be a good thing for Orkney.</p>				
<p>I live on Eday and have been to a meeting with members from the Council. At the time I was told that the new turbines would have no benefit to Eday or our own Turbine Constraints. The eyesore these machines will be on the landscape will devalue all our properties and we are all opposed to them, as we have the view of them but no benefit.</p>				



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

	Agree.	Agree to an extent.	Disagree.	Response Total
<p>While I agree to some extent these projects provide opportunity for income generation I would like to see more focus on the communities that will be directly affected.</p> <p>Not sure how a new cable will have a big impact on reducing fuel poverty in Orkney when we already pay more for our energy.</p> <p>Climate change - yes but this needs to be balanced with the effect on our island communities.</p>				

2.1. The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative.		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.	39.3%	11
2	Agree to an extent.	35.7%	10
3	Disagree.	25.0%	7

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.		35.7%	10
2	Agree to an extent.		14.3%	4
3	Disagree.		50.0%	14

2.3. Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		46.4%	13
2	Agree to an extent.		17.9%	5
3	Disagree.		35.7%	10

2.4. I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.			Response Percent	Response Total
1	Agree.		64.3%	18
2	Agree to an extent.		28.6%	8

2.4. I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.		Response Percent	Response Total
3	Disagree.	7.1%	2

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

		Response Percent	Response Total
1	Yes.	32.14%	9
2	No.	46.43%	13
3	I am undecided yet.	21.43%	6

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.

the development is an ugly eyesore

As the cost of the project will be way more than the money generated from it by the time you build a new jetty and pier and add in the cost of buying the island in the first place. I see no benefit from the project at all.

I am not a native nor resident of Orkney but my Maternal grandfather came from Faray. Whilst the sentimental side of me would like to see the island unchanged the proposed development is good for the local economy and the wider planet! I'm sure that past inhabitants of Faray would welcome any development Orcadians being practical and forward looking people

As stated above I'm concerned about the visual impact the turbines will have, not only on Faray but really for all the Northern Isles. I live fairly near Whitelee windfarm, outside Eaglesham which I believe is the largest land based windfarm in the UK Europe.

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.

The turbines at Whitelee are very large but the proposed turbines for Faray are even higher. It would be great if it was possible to use smaller units but I appreciate that the technology is not there yet. I assume they will be robust enough to survive the likely wind speeds.

I was very pleased to learn that the ruined crofts are to be left undisturbed as part of the development scheme. I hope in the future that members of my family could visit the island to see where my grandfather was born.

Undoubtedly there is an economic benefit to the County which probably outweighs the esoteric argument.

Completely disagree with the siting of the wind farm.

No windmills should be developed on a SSSI, a seal sanctuary, a seal breeding colony

The island is not uninhabited as stated. It is a seal breeding colony and a SSSI

The proposed is a no brainer.

If the land is not being used, we should put it to use to better Orkney and the environment as a whole.

I understand a common opinion is that windfarms are unsightly, but I disagree with this and even if they were, I would much rather an unsightly eco friendly windfarm to barren land not being used.

Destroying the natural beauty of the island to generate profits for big companies is the wrong thing for Orkney. Protect our natural beauty.

Fantastic project that brings jobs to Orkney, helps to step towards a green future.

Farah is supposed to be an island of scientific interest, and there is a huge deal colony and should not be touched.

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.

The cost of putting windmills on the site plus the seal sanctuary and wildlife will be disturbed would like to know the cost of the whole project I have asked this question for all of the other sites and have not got any answers yet!

Living on Westray we don't want to be looking at all those wind turbines right on our door step.
Put them somewhere else.

Faray is a beautiful uninhabited island, it's important for wildlife and is a jewel in the outer Isles. This proposed development will seal it's fate as uninhabitable for years to come. The proposed turbines are enormous and will dominate the sky line for miles around. The flicker and blade noise will be intrusive to any properties within several miles radius, mine being one of them. In certain conditions the blade noise is noticeable from the Sandy turbines, so six turbines at a lesser distance will be dreadful. Noise pollution is intrusive, bad for mental health and is something that you can't escape. You can choose to look at something, you can't choose not to hear something.

The maintenance of this site will be awkward and expensive. I witness the sea rolling down the Westray firth every day and in storm conditions Faray gets battered by the full force of it. There's so many better things OIC should be spending our money on. The Westray school for example, the building is in terrible condition and according to OIC there's no money to do more than the bare minimum on maintenance. But there's plenty of money to build wind farms. Our ferries are well past their best. Is the reason for not replacing the ferries in fact because the long term plan is to put in fixed links? Is this proposed development of Faray the first step towards doing this?

Will we ever know the cost of the infrastructure to put a windfarm on the island compared to the other two sites or as I expect it will most likely be disguised with the help of the other two ?after all the site will have to be maintained for 20,possibly 30 years ?

Uninhabited island. Great place for a windfarm if you can sort access.

In addition to the points on the previous page:

- 1) The Quarterness site could enable the Council to ""directly supply electricity to it's own buildings"" why can this therefore not be extended to the residents of Orkney and reduce everyone's energy bill?
- 2) What is the estimate of number of jobs that will remain in the County following construction - two maintenance Engineers perhaps?
- 3) How can it be too early in the design process to have clarity on how you intend to connect to the grid - is this not fundamental?

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.

It seems like a good place for a windfarm as long as any impacts on bird life and sea life can be mitigated properly. I understand that the turbines will be really big and I think they will have an impact on the views but I personally quite like turbines and think that overall the benefits of the project in terms of money for local people and doing more to tackle climate change make it worthwhile.

I am having difficulty seeing how this project will benefit Eday at all. It will have the negative visual impact from the island. In return the island is unlikely to see any changes to its own very creaky electricity supply as up to now there has been very little investment in the infrastructure.. As a case in point Eday is currently running on generators as both cables to the island are out of action. Will any of the electricity generated be made available to islanders, many of whom are in fuel poverty - or will it all be exported down south?

The amount of energy used in the manufacture of turbines this size, and the concrete that will be necessary for bases and piers must be phenomenal - is this taken into account when claiming the project is green?

Faray is a suitable site for this project. The impact on wildlife has clearly been sensibly considered and will be minimal with the proposed layout. The additional income this project will bring will be a welcome boost to people throughout the isles and an important step to keep Orkney ahead of the curve in the generation of renewable energy.

I have no strong feelings either way to be honest and it will likely have more impact on my children rather than myself.

This project sets a precedent for disregarding SSSI classifications and the importance of Orkneys Protected Habitats. In the past these projects benefit big business and disregard the needs of the impacted community. Most people living on Eday struggle to pay their electricity bills due to the cost of heating etc, and our electricity supply has been unreliable. This project will put an increased load on a problematic grid and will not benefit people on Eday that live in fuel poverty. To add to this, the turbines are an eyesore which will drastically drive down property values on Eday and will negatively impact the tourism economy. As the tour guide on Eday, I am aware that the best view for my tourists is from Vinquoy Hill and this will be irrevocably changed by the turbines and will lose it's appeal for many who come to Eday. The tourism economy of alot of the surrounding isles relies in a very large part on the wildlife, and by damaging one piece of protected habitat you endanger the long term sustainability of surrounding habitats because they are so small. This project seems to be designed to benefit big business and to produce electricity for further south, it has no clear benefit to Eday and we will suffer from it.

I would be interested to see the FULL cost of the project before I could consider my informed decision as I fear due to the lack of infrastructure on the site the costs could spiral meaning decades before any benefits can be seen by the community. I am also

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.

concerned that this site is very much dependent on another private wind farm to be sited in Eday meaning up to 14 x 150m turbines concentrated in one small area.

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

Choose a site on the mainland to reduce the costs involved.

Smaller turbines would be better.

The island should not be developed under any circumstances and OIC is breaking the law but its intention to develop an SSSI.

Faray Proposal should be binned and a huge windfarm developed at Hatston, an ideal location which is already an eyesore and part of the present councils policy to industrialise the whole if Orkney at any costs

No

Scrap the idea.
Stick with offshore wind farms.

None

Leave the island alone.

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

Just forget the project

The location is wrong

Yes put them somewhere else please

Yes. Don't proceed. Don't ruin our islands.

Surely it would be beneficial to plough multi millions into a island with a population there that could benefit from the money being spent on the infrastructure to make the project happen ?

No

No

No.

None that make any sense I would think

I would suggest these developments aim to reduce fuel poverty directly (i.e subsidised electricity on the surrounding islands).

Consider the impact of disregarding SSSI status and re-evaluate the impact this would have on a wider scale.

Consider not undertaking any developments that have no direct benefit on those that are adversely impacted by them.

Compensate for reduction in property values and loss of economic opportunity (i.e tourism).

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

I would like to see consideration given to offshore sites. Could it not be considered to add to the exiting site off Caithness coast which already has all the necessary infrastructure in place if oil you are really interested in is generating an income and not supporting the use of this wonderful green energy in Orkney.

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

As none of the residents affected by this project are likely to see any benefits from it it is unfair of the council to place this project here .

Can present the Faray project is eco friendly when it is destroying sites of SSSI

I hope the proposed goes ahead and look forward to the outcome.

I would like the answers to the questions I have asked about the costs of the project and make it clear to the people of orkney to so that they can decide what they want to do with a vote it shouldn't be a up to the council to make a decision until the public has had a chance to look at the cost and let them know where the funding is coming from as I have asked about this before at the public meetings and still waiting for the answers

It doesn't matter what we think or say. OIC will do whatever they want, wherever they want, whenever they want. Whenever they want. This had been seen many times before.

Get them up.

No

No.

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

It seems like a huge undertaking but that's no a headache for myself.

We want to make it very clear that we do not want this project to proceed, as we think it is very ill advised.

Eday now has no grid connection as both subsea cables are faulty. We are now running on diesel generators . I would like to see this project as an opportunity to create greater resilience on the islands by providing affordable, green energy t these islands rather than focusing on exporting the energy south for the greatest profit. It is totally absurd if this project goes ahead and does nothing to reduce fuel poverty.

Appendix 16 – Email responses to Pre-Application Consultation, October to November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the email responses that were received by The Applicant during the pre-application consultation process, along with responses provided by The Applicant where this was deemed appropriate (shown in bold and italics).

Response 1

I wondered when the EIA for Faray is likely to be completed and is it possible to view it when it is? I couldn't tell from the presentation whether the surveys had already been undertaken or whether they were still ongoing.

My question really was about the extent of the SSSI and that at other major Grey Seal colonies they often move inland a good distance, in some instances like Linga Holm covering the whole island. I noted the position of the turbines had moved a bit and it was alluded to in the presentation that was because of proximity to the seals.

For Faray, we're currently at the pre-application consultation stage. This is the bit before we submit the planning application and the EIA, during which we gather feedback from the public on the proposals, which could then feed into the final design. We're working towards submitting a planning application in early January, at which point you'll be able to view all the documents through the planning portal on the Council website and make representation to the planning authority – whether that be to support or object to the proposals.

We're still working on all those documents at present.

The Faray SAC and SSSI have absolutely been taken into account when designing the project and we've taken some key steps to address the potential disturbance impacts on the grey seal population. This includes:

- ***With the exception of the new extended slipway, the blunt-end pier and very small section of track leading to them, none of the wind farm infrastructure will impinge on the designated areas, as these have been carefully avoided through the design iteration process; and***
- ***the construction programme will ensure that the most sensitive time of island use by seals, i.e. the breeding/pupping period will be avoided completely. The extent of these periods will be agreed in consultation with NatureScot.***
- ***The potential for disturbing seals outwith the breeding/pupping season will also being considered within the assessment process and suitable mitigation measures will be included within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.***

Response 2

Don't be too annoyed about all the negative criticism on the turbine post. I say it's a grand idea :-)

Response 3

My great grandmother Margaret Drever was born at Hammer, she married a Bain from farm of Cleat) disturbing the character of the Island is sad but I guess they said that about telegraph poles.

Response 4

The islands of Faray and Holm of Faray have national protection from SSSI designation.

In addition, the inshore waters surrounding Faray and the Holm of Faray have been designated a marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There is a European Protected SAC on the islands of Faray and Holm of Faray SAC EU (codeUK0017096).

Both designations are due to the Grey Seal population found there, which is the second largest breeding colony in the UK, contributing to around 9% of UK annual pup production.

The UK has a special responsibility to protect this species. (JNCC.gov.uk)

The Grey Seal breeding season is from late September to late November. Protection from disturbance until mid November is not long enough. What will happen if essential repairs and maintenance are required during the protection times?

The moulting period follows in January to March (females), and March to May (males)

Disturbance during these months will cause the seals to become displaced from Faray.

Grey Seals use haul out sites for their moult as well as pupping.

What are the effects of disturbance on breeding success?

The seals tend to be found in areas where there is easy access from the shore, and freshwater pools on the islands appear to be particularly important. The planned turbines are situated very close to these areas and risks displacing the seals.

Desertion

The construction phase will have the greatest impact, significantly due to noise and the effect of disturbance from maintenance vessels on the daily movements of Grey Seals.

Noise

The hearing sensitivity of Grey Seals means that they may avoid wind farms that are under construction or operating.

There is evidence that Harbour seal abundance was significantly reduced by up to 25kms from the pile driving activity of the construction of wind farms in The Wash in Norfolk.

(<https://doi.org/10.1111/1365-2664.12678>)

Studies have demonstrated behavioural aversion to high level sounds including pile-driving.

“Marine mammals could be displaced from existing wind farms either due to construction or operational noise “(Tougaard, Henriksen & Miller 2009)

Potential hearing damage

“Bailey et al. (2010) related the sound levels from installation of 5 MW turbines to noise exposure criteria for marine mammals to assess possible effects. They estimated that bottlenose dolphins could suffer auditory injury but only within 100 m of the pile-driving. They also estimated that behavioural disturbance, defined as any modifications in behaviour, could have occurred up to 50 km away. The hearing of cetaceans could be adversely affected leading to strandings and death.

Thomsen et al. (2006) estimated that both harbour porpoises and harbour seals are likely to be able to hear pile driving blows at ranges of more than 80 km. They concluded that behavioural responses are possible over many kilometres, perhaps up to ranges of 20 km and that masking might occur in harbour seals at least up to 80 km. Using potential hearing damage criteria of 180 dB rms re 1 µPa for cetaceans and 190 dB rms re 1 µPa for seals they estimated that hearing loss might be a concern, at 1.8 km in porpoises and 400 m in seals. Thomsen et al. (2006) also concluded that severe injuries in the immediate vicinity of piling activities cannot be ruled out.”

Pile-driving has been identified as being of particular concern.

“Estimates of received levels of piling noise vary widely but there is a general consensus that, in some conditions, they have the potential to cause hearing damage to a wide range of marine mammal species over considerable areas . The use of piles in wind farm construction has been an issue since the earliest stages of the planning process “(Thomsen et al. 2006)

The better low frequency hearing of seals could mean that noise from operational installations would be able to mask biologically significant sounds.

Studies are needed on the auditory brain stem responses in pups of female seals exposed to OREG (offshore renewable energy generation) during construction and operation noise (foetuses exposed to noise during gestation might be at risk of hearing loss). “Noise attenuation differences between species may mean that the received levels between mice, sheep and marine mammals are different and that higher exposures are required before the same effect is seen but permanent threshold shifts (PTS) in pups and juveniles could have consequences for their longevity, survival and reproduction as they may be unable to forage well or reproduce successfully due to impairment in hearing abilities necessary to navigate and mate.” (Scottish Government :Current state of knowledge of effects of offshore renewable energy generation devices on marine mammals and research requirements)

We need an accurate environmental assessment. The spatial and temporal quantification of avoidance of wind farms by seals is critical to reduce uncertainty and increase robustness in environmental assessments.

The effects of repeated disturbance from haul-out sites through adrenal fatigue, need to be assessed and taken into consideration.

What is the impact of disturbance during PILING on behavioural displacement of Grey Seals and Harbour Seals? Or because of disturbance by maintenance vessels? What will be the consequences of behaviour and reproduction, food consumption, habitat preference and foraging and movement patterns?

The irony of the SSSI protection is that it allows local councils to disregard it.

FARAY AND HOLM OF FARAY SITE OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST OPERATIONS REQUIRING CONSENT FROM SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

If you propose to carry out, or permit to be carried out, any of the operations listed below, you must first obtain consent from SNH unless a local authority has granted you planning permission (under Part III of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997) or a designated regulatory authority has given you written permission (under s.15 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004). If you have such a permission you may proceed without obtaining consent from SNH for the same operation.

7 Dumping, spreading or discharge of any materials.

20 Extraction of minerals including shingle, sand, gravel and shells during pupping season (September to December).

21 Construction, removal or destruction of walls, fences, banks, ditches or other earthworks.

26 Use of vehicles or watercraft near seal haulouts or during pupping season

Consultee advised that these issues will be covered in full in the EIA report

Response 5

I'm not sure if non-Orkadians are allowed to comment on this. I live in Somerset but have been coming to Orkney on holiday for many years. I keep in touch with events there by listening to BBC Around Orkney podcasts.

I love Orkney for its beautiful unspoiled landscape and its wildlife. This year I visited in September (postponed from June) and spent a lot of my time taking ferry trips to the outer north isles. I haven't done that for a good few years due to a travel companion who gets sea-sick, but this year I came on my own. I have to say I was really shocked to see all the turbines on Sanday. I thought it looked terrible.

I'm therefore horrified to hear about the plans for Faray. For me, it's bad enough to be considering any wind turbines in this location at all - but I find it almost impossible to imagine (even with the help of your slides) what it will be like to look up at these 150m towers! I remember visiting the Thorfinn wind farm and finding the turbines there pretty gigantic - yet these will be twice as tall!

It seems to me that at some point, Orkney will have to choose between energy generation and tourism, because if the landscape is to be peppered with huge turbines, it will no longer be unspoiled.

Response 6

Struggling to make any sense of the Faray windmill project proposal. How can it be environmentally sound to destroy Faray, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) - an internationally important seal breeding colony with such a development ? Destroying the environment to industrialize Faray and supposedly protect the climate with this development is ridiculous. Stating the island is uninhabited is very misleading when it is inhabited for most of the year by Grey Seals.

Response 7

I'd like to voice my support for this project on the condition that this project provides sufficient revenue for OIC so as to reduce the burden on Orkney residents to pay council tax charges over the duration of the turbines' lifespans.

I believe the visual impact on the beauty of the Orkney islands is not significant due to the low numbers of people visiting the location.

Response 8

Hello, I have a question regarding the wind farm proposals for Faray.

Why do Orkney Islands Council think it's OK to buy a special protected island, without and consultation with local people, and then make plans to turn it into a wind farm?

Response 9

Please find the enclosed response reference the above. I should point out that obviously it will not be you who looks at the HUGE turbines.

Response 10

Regarding the pre-consultation on the Faray wind farm proposal, Orkney Field Club will respond, but can you tell me what happens to responses? Do they become viewable by the public (we have no objection to this) and are the opinions expressed to be included in the Planning application, if it goes ahead?

With the deadline for pre-consultation responses almost upon us Orkney Field Club have just a brief statement to make, putting down a marker so to speak for our complete opposition to this proposal. We do not think there is anything to be gained from discussions at this stage.

"OFC oppose this proposal because it will have a devastating effect on the beauty of the North Isles landscape, and will adversely affect wildlife. OIC cannot allow economic justifications to over-ride human and environmental values in this way. 'Green' developments contributing to reduction in greenhouses gases must not be undertaken at unacceptable cost to these values. We have concluded that this is an unjustifiable development that contravenes our own Council's Planning policies and we will object to it at later stages in the planning process."

Orkney Field Club were offered an opportunity to discuss their concerns with the Applicant in a video call however, they declined the offer.

Response 11

I would like to add my strong objection to the proposed industrialisation of the island of Faray.

I worked four lambings and shearings there when Mr. Marcus Hewison rented the island so have first hand experience of the environment and what it contains. Since it was abandoned by the human population in 1947, it has been inhabited by a staggering variety of wildlife with its mix of grass and heather moorland, high cliff and low shore. It was never intensively farmed, as Westray has been, and so has maintained a perfect, secure natural habitat WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO BE WHAT ORKNEY HOLDS DEAR. This is an island which is pristine, an important breeding ground for seals and many species of birds. To industrialise it would be to wreck the delicate natural balance that exists there.

LANDING & TRANSPORT.

At present there is no suitable landing place for heavy equipment, so a new pier or slipway would have to be built. The only 'road' is a grass track, which would mean further disturbance, the introduction of concrete/ tarmac, maintenance buildings, etc.....THIS is before any construction of the turbines would begin!

VISUAL IMPACT

A regimented line of turbines running down the spine of Faray would be seen for miles. There is no way they could be made to "fit" in the landscape; they would just be a raw sore thumb...

...has the impact of the turbines movements and sounds on breeding birds and animals yet been researched?

I am not against Wind Energy. I believe in renewables, BUT Faray IS a special case. And I don't mean to come across as a "not in my backyard" objector, but we strongly run the risk of destroying a jewel of a natural habitat for ever. Perhaps it is seen as easy pickings.

I would urge the Council – if they want to 'develop' the island - to capitalise on what is there now and go down the eco-tourism line, introduce sensitive 'safari'-style courses for small groups – renovate the old School into simple accommodation. This could be done with minimal disturbance and would be a tremendous boost to Orkney's reputation as a haven of nature. The alternative would be a form of rape!

Appendix 17 – Feedback received at virtual event, October 2020

Introduction

This appendix describes the format of the virtual event held on 29 October 2020 and details the feedback received by participants.

Format of virtual event

The virtual event was held via Microsoft Teams, 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 Microsoft Teams provided for these requirements.

A meeting link was posted at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC 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 presentation 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 presentation (see Appendix 13).

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.

Key questions

- The key concerns raised at the event were:
- The location of the turbines and the potential effect on buildings.
- The potential effect of seal life in the area.
- The likely income from the project.
- Potential for the development to help with the energy costs of Council facilities in Westray
- The use of The Knowe as a quarrying site and the potential for it to change the topography of Faray.

Appendix 18 – Letter received during pre-application consultation, November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents a letter that received in November 2020 during the pre-application process from a member of the public resident in Eday.

Dear Kirsty Groundwater

Thank you for the details of the Pharay wind farm project.

Clearly a lot of hard work has gone into this and I appreciate your efforts.

I have lived on the coast of Eday now since 2000 due east of Lavey Sound which, on one occasion, I walked and waded across, surrounded by seals.

Every day I look across the sea to Pharay and I have very much enjoyed visiting the island.

However times change and I very much welcome the proposals to put wind turbines there, thereby contributing to putting less CO₂ in the atmosphere and possibly helping to finance OIC, although the initial capital cost will be enormous. It should help to justify the cost of the cable across the Pentland Firth. Of course all machinery and man made products only have a limited life.

Some people do not like any change, this would include big wind turbines. However I remember when the Sanday ones were put up. Some Eday residents deplored the sight of them but within a short time they seemed to get used to them and one doesn't hear criticism of them now. Meanwhile about 30 x 5kw have been put up on Eday and seem to be tolerated and well maintained most of the time.

Wind turbines sometimes don't go round, but wind is something we have a lot of in Orkney. In the past it was used to drive a mill to grow and thresh corn. I suppose a few people would describe these old windmills as an eyesore.

My best wishes for the project.

Appendix 19 – Response from the Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative, November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the response received from the Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative in November 2020. This followed on from an online meeting between the chair of OMMRI and the Applicant project team on 20 November 2020.

1. How did you find out about the consultation?

OIC post on Facebook

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

A) The information available through this consultation has been helpful and informative

Agree to an extent.

Comment: The information supplied on the consultation boards, detailing the planned mitigation regarding Grey seal pupping times specifically, was factually incorrect and misleading for interested parties who are not familiar with the reproductive habits of this species. We were pleased to note however that, during our meeting, this fact was taken on board and understood. To reiterate; to be certain that Grey seals on Faray would not be disturbed during pupping season all work would need to be suspended between mid September and mid/end January.

B) 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.

Disagree

Comment: OMMRI is not opposed to the development of wind farms per se and understands that Orkney will benefit economically and enjoy a better energy supply from projects such as this. However, we strongly believe that this location is a poor choice. Faray should not be considered for this project for the following reasons; it is the 2nd largest Grey seal pupping colony in the UK and is a designated SAC and SSSI.

C) Bringing a new cable to Orkney will be beneficial to our local economy.

Agree

D) I am concerned about climate change and the effect it is having on the environment.

Agree

3. Are you in support of the project proposals on Faray?

No

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.

For the reasons stated above in section 2.B OMMRI strongly believes that Faray is an ill advised location for this project. Your comments regarding the majority of the Grey seal colony being located at the North side of the island were noted. However it's well known that Grey seals will use different pupping beaches from season to season. An example of this would be Tofts Ness in Sanday; two years ago 35 pups were born there during pupping season with a total of 150 seals present at its peak. So far, this year, there have been 2 adults and 3 pups in this location. So it may well be the case that the majority of the population were in the North during your monitoring period but could be using the South of the island in other years. Additionally, Grey seals and their pups will move between different beaches to escape poor weather during a single pupping season. Grey seals are present around the whole of Faray's coastline. Major construction work and its associated noise coupled with increased human activity at the South of the island will impact the population in all areas and cause distress. There is also the potential that the seals will begin overcrowding on the North side of the island.

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

We would suggest changing the location of this project to a site that is less environmentally sensitive.

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

As discussed during our meeting, we were disappointed to see that the consultation boards focused heavily on the visual impact to the nearest residences rather than the impact on the ecology/ornithology of the island. Whilst we understand that, as you stated "this is what people care about" we also strongly believe that organisations such as OIC should be leading the way in educating the general public that the environment and the impact of developments such as wind farms extend further than the view from their kitchen windows.

Finally; if you are going to provide a feedback form specifically for interested parties to complete and submit online it would be sensible to provide it in a format that can be edited. Supplying the form as a PDF makes the feedback process more difficult and more complicated than it needs to be.

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:

Orkney Marine Mammal Research Initiative

chair@ommri.org

secretary@ommri.org

Appendix 20 – Project blog, November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the project blog that was produced by the Applicant project team to address concerns that were being raised during the consultation process about the grey seal population. The blog was published on the project blog site on November 26 2020 at <https://kirstygroundwater.wixsite.com/orkneywindfarm/post/faray-seals-how-do-they-factor-into-the-planning-application>, shared on social media channels and a link emailed to all those who had responded to the consultation

Faray Seals - how do they factor into the planning application?

We're reaching the end point of our pre-application consultation period for our Faray project – the closing date for comments is 12:00 on Monday 30 November – and we've had a great response so far, in terms of the number of comments and queries submitted to us. We'd like to thank all the folk who've taken the time to do that – it really is appreciated and will help us shape the final planning application documents.

One key concern that has been raised directly with us (and indirectly on social media) is the potential effect of the project on the seal population around Faray. Consideration of potential impacts on the seal population will feature heavily in our Environmental Impact Assessment for the planning application – but in the meantime here are the facts:

When investigating a site for a wind farm development, several factors are taken into account when designing the project and making decisions about where exactly to place the turbines within the site. This includes factors like the landscape of the site, the potential for noise and shadow flicker impacts on nearby properties, archaeology and cultural heritage, telecommunications links, aviation - and the local ecology and wildlife.

Parts of Faray are designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI), due to the significant grey seal breeding population who frequent the coastline, using it as a haul out location, particularly during the important pupping season (generally September to December). It's important to note here that it's primarily the coastline of Faray that's the designated area, though land behind the shore on the west and the northern tip are included in the designated area, as seals also use these areas (all of the Holm of Faray is included in the designated area). In our proposed placement of the turbines on the island, we've been able to avoid being too close to the coastline and also the SAC and SSSI land areas - as you can see in the map below.

In investigating the site, we have carried out a programme of surveys to identify the seals' use of the coastline and any particularly sensitive areas. The surveys were carried out over the course of a year by three independent and suitably qualified ecologists and this has provided us with valuable data for assessing the potential impact on seals. We will provide details of these surveys in our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

The EIA will assess the potential impacts on grey seals and propose mitigation, where appropriate. This will include a commitment to not carry out construction work during the pupping season and it is likely that other protection measures will be put in place through the rest of the year. At this time we think it's unlikely that there will be significant impacts on the seal population during the operational phase of the project, but this will be fully considered as well.

We expect to be submitting a planning application in early 2021. You can keep up with the latest developments on the project via this blog, on our Facebook page and through the project webpages on the Council's website <https://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/orkneys-community-wind-farm-project.htm>

If you have any queries, please contact Kirsty Groundwater (Project Officer – Communications and Engagement) on Kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk or by phone on 07818 508 323

Any comments submitted up to November 30 will be included in our pre-application consultation report, which is submitted as part of the planning application. The report will detail what we did to consult with the public and other stakeholders, the information we provided, the responses or

comments that we received, and how these comments shaped the final project proposals. This report is published alongside the other planning documents on the Council's online planning portal – and will also be published on the Scottish Government's website, if the application is called in.

The comments received during the pre-application period come to us as The Applicant for the project. When the planning application is submitted people can, and should, make their views known directly to the consenting authority, too.

Appendix 21 – Covering Letter to Eday households, November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the covering letter that was included in a pack of consultation information sent to every household in Eday on the request of the Eday Community Council on November 5 2020.

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Executive Director: Gavin Barr, BSc Hons, MSc URP, MRTPI
Council Offices, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1NY

Tel: (01856) 873535
Fax: (01856) 876094

Website: www.orkney.gov.uk
Email: developmentandinfrastructure@orkney.gov.uk



If emailing please contact Kirsty Groundwater on kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk

Our Ref: le-001/KG/AW/Strategic Energy Projects/Community Engagement

5 November 2020

Dear Householder

Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Faray

I write to you from Orkney Islands Council's Strategic Projects Team, who are the team currently working on proposals for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project, which includes a proposed six turbine wind farm on Faray.

In advance of a planning application for the Faray project being submitted early next year, we are currently carrying out a pre-application consultation on the project.

In normal circumstances, as part of this process, we would have carried out a face to face public event in Eday to present the information to you, however this is not possible due to the ongoing situation with the coronavirus pandemic

We are hugely disappointed that we cannot come out and talk face to face to the community about the latest plans, however given the current situation we hope you can understand why it would not be possible or sensible to do so.

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.

As part of this Eday Community Council has requested a pack of information on the project be sent to all households in Eday, which you will find enclosed.

The pack includes

- An A4 set of 'consultation boards' – these are the boards we would have had on display had we been able to come to Eday for a public exhibition.
- A 'Guide to the Consultation Boards' document, which provides additional information on the project and should be read alongside the consultation boards.
- A feedback form.

All consultation material, including a link to an online feedback form is also available at www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayPAC. A presentation video from our project team is also available at this link.

Should you have.../

Page 2

5 November 2020

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact me 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 30 November 2020 at 12.00 noon.

Yours faithfully

Kirsty Groundwater
Project Officer (Communications and Engagement)

Enc

Appendix 22 – Questions for Wireless Westray podcast, November 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the questions that were submitted by the public to be asked during the Wireless Westray podcast which was broadcast on 13 November 2020 and available at https://www.spreaker.com/user/12570168/episode-13-faray-wind-farm-project?fbclid=IwAR1nqREQb00aGWFNeCkLP8JJjBoZ6Ekdni2uMjUYCR1Rnj414FNy8_0vylg.

Questions re Faray turbines

1. Could you summarise what's being proposed in the Faray wind turbine project? (This can include where you're at with the consultation process).
2. How much will it cost? How is it being funded?
3. What is the estimated yearly income from the turbines? Who is paying this?
4. How many jobs will be created by the Orkney Community Windfarm project? Will any of these be open to residents of Westray or Eday?
5. What's the life-span of these turbines? How long do you expect them to be generating electricity and income?
6. What direct benefit will the Faray wind farm bring to the residents of Westray? How will this be evidenced? E.g. will there be an annual report to show how the income generated from the wind farm has been used, including information for the community on how the energy and income generated from the wind farm has specifically benefited the islands it impacts (Westray & Eday)?
7. If the turbines go through planning this will surely tip the balance of the scales in favour of a new subsea cable from the Scottish Mainland.
 - a. Which will be built first – the turbines or the cable?
 - b. If Orkney does have a new subsea cable installed, what would be its capacity? Would there still be enough 'room' for new private developments/ research developments?
 - c. Do you believe Orkney's renewable sector will be able to develop much further without a new subsea cable?
8. The Orkney grid is currently very restricted, so much so that many turbines already in place in Orkney, including several that are community owned, are constrained and not producing at their full capacity.
 - a. How will the Faray wind farm project work with these restrictions?
 - b. Will the Faray turbines be constrained?
 - c. Will the Faray wind farm reduce space for other turbines already in place?
 - d. Will the grid be expanded enough for all Orkney turbines currently restricted to be able to produce energy at their full capacity?
9. What impact will the wind farm have, in construction and ongoing, on Faray's wildlife? e.g. its use by seals as a breeding ground.
10. How will the heritage of Faray be protected, including the cemetery on the island?
11. On the Faray consultation OIC state that for stage one – delivery of the turbines to Pharay - there will be a 'new extended slip, which could accommodate the types of vessels already used in Orkney'.
12. Do OIC intend to use Orkney Ferries vessels?
 - a. The MCA rules for Eynhallow, Shapinsay and Thorsvoe indicate that they are restricted to only sailing 15 miles from their port of departure. From the Shapinsay slip to the proposed Faray slip is 16.02 miles, as the crow flies.
 - b. Do Orkney Ferries actually have a vessel that can provide that service?
13. Is all this consultation not just a paper exercise and a complete waste of time? It's only going to go ahead anyway, no matter what we say.

Appendix 23 – Letter of support from Westray Community Council, December 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the letter of support for the project received from Westray Community Council on 5 December 2020.

Westray Community Council

Chair:
Mr A Baird
Cedar Cottage
Westray
KW17 2DH

Interim Clerk:
c/o Democratic Services
Orkney Islands Council
Kirkwall
KW15 1NY
westrayccclerk@gmail.com

5 December 2020

Strategic Projects Team
Orkney Islands Council
School Place
Kirkwall
KW15 1NY

To whom it may concern,

Faray Community Wind Farm Project

At the last meeting of Westray Community Council, members discussed the presentation on the Faray Community Wind Farm Project which had been provided at the previous meeting by your team.

Members felt that there would potentially be benefits of this proposed development to all communities in Orkney, not just the north isles. The Community Council wished to record their support for the project at this stage.

Members look forward to further consultation on this project as it proceeds.

Yours sincerely,

Democratic Services

Interim Westray Community Council Clerk

Appendix 24 – Additional photomontage requested by Eday Community Council, October 2020

Introduction

This Appendix presents the additional photomontage requested by Eday Community Council in October 2020, taken from the Cusbay Road in Eday.

View from Cusbay Road



OS reference: 355311, 1036751
Eye level: 29m AOD
Direction of view: 177°
Nearest turbine: 1.9km
Horizontal field of view: 53.5° (planar projection)



Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project

Appendix 25 – Analysis against the Seven 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). Examples are provided to demonstrate how the Applicant has achieved the level and standard.

Seven 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>Public events 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>An 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 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 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 exhibitions were deliberately arranged to avoid the school holidays and any major public events.</p>

Standard	Description	Description
		<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>
Working together	We will work together effectively to achieve the aims of the engagement	The Applicant undertook the community engagement with assistance from technical specialists where appropriate; contact details for relevant staff were made available publicly.

Standard	Description	Description
		<p>In planning the pre-application consultation events the Applicant took into account feedback received at the initial public events.</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 Westray and Eday 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 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, podcasts, blog posts, 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>
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</p>

Standard	Description	Description
		<p>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 demerits 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>

SP=EED	Level Achieved	Examples of how we achieved this
		<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 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>
<p>4. APPROPRIATENESS</p>	<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>
<p>5. RESPONSIVENESS</p>	<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</p>

SP=EED	Level Achieved	Examples of how we achieved this
		<p>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>
6. INCLUSIVENESS	<p>Level 1 – Relevant representative groups / organisations will be identified and information will be designed and disseminated to reach them.</p>	<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	<p>Level 1 – Distribution of information and feedback received on the engagement process will be analysed after the process is completed.</p>	<p>The PAC report fulfils this requirement by documenting the consultation process that has been undertaken and providing a summary of the comments received.</p>
8. LEARNING AND SHARING	<p>Level 2 – Lessons from the engagement process will be reviewed and shared with a focus on learning and training.</p>	<p>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.</p>