



# ORKNEY

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## ISLANDS COUNCIL

### **Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project**

Faray Marine Licence Application

Pre-Application Consultation

Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What is the pre-application consultation about?**

Orkney Islands Council (as Applicant, not as Planning Authority) is holding a pre-application consultation event regarding the Marine Licensable activities associated with Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project - Faray. The event will cover a project summary, some description of the proposals and information on the potential impacts that have been taken into consideration. The event provides an opportunity for members of the public and interested parties to provide feedback to the project team so that these comments can be taken account of in advance of a Marine Licence Application being submitted.

## **How can I access the event?**

The online event takes place on 4 March 2021 between 16:00 and 19:00. Joining instructions will be available at [www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayMarine](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayMarine). The event is being held online due to ongoing public gathering restrictions.

## **What is the proposed development?**

The proposed development is seeking to improve access to the island of Faray in Orkney's North Isles by replacing the existing slipway with a new extended slipway and installing a separate landing jetty.

## **Why is the development needed?**

Access to Faray is currently taken from a small slipway located to the south of the island. This slipway is in a dilapidated condition and currently only suitable for small landing craft style vessels.

The installation of a new extended slip and new landing jetty will ensure general continued access to Faray and would facilitate future development, such as the proposed Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray. A new slip, for example, would provide access for construction equipment and vehicles, allowing preliminary site works to be undertaken. The landing jetty would facilitate the delivery of large wind turbine components.

## **What is Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray?**

'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' includes three potential Council-owned wind farm sites - one on Faray, another in Hoy in the area around Wee Fea, and one at Quanterness in St Ola. All three projects are currently in the planning process – no definite decision has been taken by Elected Members to go ahead with building out the projects yet.

Each site has the potential capacity for six turbines at approximately 150m to tip height 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.

More information about 'Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project' is available at [www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/orkneys-community-wind-farm-project](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/Council/C/orkneys-community-wind-farm-project).

## **Why is additional pre-application consultation required – didn't you already consult on the Faray project in 2020?**

Pre-application consultation was carried out for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project – Faray towards the end of last year (2020) and the EIA for Orkney's Community Wind Farm Project- Faray will include the wind farm proposals and the new extended slipway and landing jetty. However, as the structures are below mean high-water spring, a Marine Licence Application has to be submitted to Marine Scotland for the two marine structures – a process which also requires pre-application consultation. Therefore, this consultation is purely about the marine structures, not the wider wind farm project.

## **Why are two structures required?**

The extended slipway will allow vessels and vehicles to access Faray. This would allow preliminary site works to be undertaken. The landing jetty is then required for the delivery of large wind turbine components. These couldn't be accommodated by the extended slipway – and therefore both structures are required.

## **What will the new extended slipway be like?**

The extended slipway will be a maximum of 36m long and 8m wide. It'll be built in the same location as the existing slipway. The design will enable easier access by larger vessels than the current slipway and would be built to a standard design for Orkney, to allow access for local vessels.

## **What will the landing jetty be like?**

The landing jetty will comprise a causeway of up to 55m long and 10m wide, terminating in a structure for docking, measuring up to 20m by 20m. The square docking structure would likely be infilled and capped off with concrete batched onsite.

## **Will dredging be required?**

Localised dredging will be required, there may also be some localised channel dredging to allow vessel access to the landing jetty. A dredging assessment will be undertaken and detailed in the EIA.

## **What are the likely effects of the development on marine mammals?**

As sheet piling will be required for the landing jetty – and construction will be beyond mean low water – there is likely to be some underwater sound during construction. The potential impact of this sound on marine mammals therefore needs to be assessed. This assessment will assess the potential impacts on grey seals, harbour seals, whales, porpoises, and dolphins, and will include disturbance modelling for all relevant species. Underwater noise models will consider the use of mitigation measures like soft start and bubble curtains. The methodology for the underwater noise assessment has been developed in collaboration with Marine Scotland and NatureScot and is in adherence with international guidance from NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

## **What type of data will the noise assessments determine?**

The assessment will include an estimated number of 'individuals' impacted based on three thresholds – permanent threshold shift, temporary threshold shift and behavioural disturbance. From this a percentage impact at local, regional, and national population levels for each species will be identified.

## **Will the seals on Faray itself be impacted by the noise?**

Noise created by piling will predominantly travel through the water column. Sound reduces much more quickly in air than water, thus additional impacts to seals from piling when they are on land is considered unlikely.

## **Would construction be carried out during pupping season?**

We are proposing that no construction takes place from mid-September to late December to avoid the pupping season.

## **Will there be an impact on fish and fishing?**

Given the relatively small area of impact, disturbance to fish species is not considered to be significant.

There are also no fish landings to Faray and the proposed development would only result in temporary exclusion of fishing activities within the immediate area of the jetty and slipway during the construction phase, including the localised dredging works. Due to the temporary and localised nature of the works in combination with the relatively small contribution to the wider region's fish landings (based on Scottish Government fishing effort and landings statistics), significant impacts to fishing are not expected.

## **What is the likely impact on water/air quality?**

Impacts to water quality have been scoped into the EIA and will be considered within the dredging assessment. In terms of air quality there will be emissions from the construction vessels. However, these would be localised and temporary and all

vessels would be MARPOL (the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) compliant.

## **Are there any archaeological/cultural heritage impacts?**

In terms of marine archaeology there are no recorded wrecks, including Historic Marine Protected Areas within the area. There are also no known MOD exercise or disposal areas near the site. In addition, the site is outwith historic areas such as World War 2 training sites, thus the risk of unexploded ordnance is low.

## **Will it have an impact on navigation in the area?**

OIC Marine Services and Orkney Ferries Ltd have confirmed that no impacts or potential effects are expected on marine radar due to the Proposed Development. A Port Management Plan will be prepared to manage abnormal load deliveries and other marine traffic at Hatston pier to ensure there will be no interruption to existing operators. The piers themselves won't impact on existing ferry routes and dredging operations will be temporary and contained within the bay.

## **Where are the materials for the development coming from?**

To minimise the volume of imported materials brought onto the site and any associated environmental impact, the project will look to utilise onsite borrow pits where practical. Concrete will be batched on-site with supplies coming from resources in Orkney, where available.

## **I want to make my views known about this - how do I go about doing that?**

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed extended slipway and landing jetty can submit these through:

the online feedback form at [www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayMarine](http://www.orkney.gov.uk/FarayMarine)

By email to [kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.groundwater@orkney.gov.uk)

By phone to 07818508323

By post to Kirsty Groundwater, Project Officer, Orkney Islands Council, Town House, Stromness, KW16 3AA

All comments relating to the proposal should be received no later than 18 March 2021.

It's important to note that this is the pre-application stage of the proposed development. Comments made to Orkney Islands Council are not representations to the Scottish Ministers on a Marine Licence application. If Orkney Islands Council makes an application for a Marine Licence for these activities, there will be a separate opportunity for representations to be made to Marine Scotland on the application.