



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Ag Obair Còmhla Airson nan Eilean

SPACEPORT ONE: CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

Client	CnES
Project/Proposal No;	P58
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1 Outline

Visit	Details
Start Date/Time	01/02/2025
Completed Date/Time	28/02/2025 (restricted site visits due to inter-island travel disruption)
Site	Spaceport One
Works	Enabling construction
Weather	Wet, windy and with some dry sunny spells
Temperature	Min 2°C Max 10°C

2 Site Comments/Observations

2.1 Activities

- 2.1.1.1 The temporary dam has been removed from both the upper and lower sections of Loch Scolpaig (Photo 1). Water has been reintroduced in a controlled manner to allow for settlement before the complete dam structure is removed from the loch bed. Laboratory tests for suspended solids and pH have been conducted and demonstrate no measurable impact on the water quality of the loch. Further information and sample results are available in Section 2.5 Water Quality.
- 2.1.1.2 The pumping system and desilters have been removed from the site. Settlement ponds and silt control measures remain in place to prevent any overland water flows during adverse weather conditions from impacting water quality (Photo 2). It is anticipated that these control systems will remain until the areas have naturally re-vegetated (Photo 3). This will be reassessed in March once the vegetation growing season has commenced and the risk of any impact to water quality is reduced to an acceptable level.
- 2.1.1.3 Elsewhere on the site, work has continued widening the access track and creating laybys (Photo 4). Additional work has been carried out on the hardstanding area adjacent to the farm buildings to facilitate vehicle turning, storage and future site parking. A new access track, approximately 102 m long, has been constructed between the existing farm buildings and the hardstanding area (Photo 5), linking to the next phase of construction for the spaceport infrastructure and launch pad. Cable boxes and ducting for an Openreach data connection have been installed across the site (Photo 6). Two additional culverts have been installed to mitigate the impact of the road height increase which was trapping significant quantities of water. Work is commencing on finishing the bell mouth, with curbing anticipated to start in early March 2025. For detailed site drawings showing the location of the works, refer to Section 5 Site Plan.

2.2 General Comments

- 2.2.1.1 All works have been completed in accordance with planning conditions, the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), environmental legislation and construction industry best practice.

- 2.2.1.2 Due to adverse weather conditions and limited availability of inter-island travel site inspections were restricted during the latter half of February.
- 2.2.1.3 Noise, vibration, and dust are being minimized through construction best practices and the site complies with the Construction Traffic Management Plan. For health and safety reasons, in line with HSG151 Protecting the Public¹, access remains restricted to the general public and will be reopened once safe access is possible.
- 2.2.1.4 Water runoff and silt mitigation measures are regularly inspected, and water quality monitoring is conducted to ensure control measures are effective. All results remain within the baseline testing parameters, with no impact on the overall water quality of the surrounding loch.
- 2.2.1.5 Site personnel have received a series of toolbox talks with subject matter ranging from Archaeology, Water Pollution Prevention (fuel and oil), Stripping Sub Soils (management and planning), Water Pollution Prevention (silt) and Ecological Constraints (otter). Toolbox talks to cover ornithological constraints will be delivered ahead of the breeding bird season.

2.3 Environmental incidences

- 2.3.1.1 Nothing to report.

2.4 Compound and infrastructure

- 2.4.1.1 The site compound is powered by a diesel generator situated within a bunded area, equipped with plant nappies and spill kits. All fuel bowsers are double-bunded and placed on plant nappies. Additional plant nappies are available to facilitate the refuelling of plant and machinery as needed, with spares stored on site. The inspection of storage facilities, including bunded COSHH stores, was satisfactory, adhering to best practices. Site welfare facilities are serviced via a foul waste tank.

2.5 Water Quality

- 2.5.1.1 To mitigate construction surface water runoff, extensive silt fencing and coir logs have been installed between the construction works and Loch Scolpaig. Dewatering of the dammed area has been completed using 6-inch and 3-inch cowled pumps, with discharge routed through two large desilter units and pumped uphill to a discharge point via silt bags (Photo 7 and Photo 8). Additional coir logs have been installed to manage overland water flows around the pumping location, which is situated more than 50 m from the loch shore.
- 2.5.1.2 General site pollution prevention measures are in place, with all machines using plant nappies when not in use and equipped with spill kits.
- 2.5.1.3 Water samples are collected from both the upper (north) and lower (south) sections of Loch Scolpaig to monitor water quality as construction progresses. The results (Table 1), indicate no adverse impacts on water quality so far. Construction runoff is being effectively managed with silt containment and discharge through vegetation, with no visible impact on Loch Scolpaig water quality, as evidenced by turbidity and laboratory samples.
- 2.5.1.4 Although turbidity (*ntu*) is not a direct measure of suspended solids it serves as a valuable tool for rapidly assessing water quality and the effectiveness of control measures onsite. Additional water quality samples have been sent to the laboratory for further analysis and comparison to baseline

¹ <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg151.htm>

metrics of suspended solids (mg/L) to calibrate turbidity readings and demonstrate project compliance and the effectiveness of control measures.

- 2.5.1.5 The water sampling analysis from the independent UKAS accredited laboratory in water quality testing (see Appendix 1) demonstrates that suspended solids (mg/L) within the analysed water samples from the upper (north) and lower (south) sections of Loch Scolpaig are below the limit of detection for suspended solids, indicating negligible impact on Loch Scolpaig's water quality. This concludes all planned water quality monitoring for the project.

Table 1 Water Quality Results

Water Quality Sample Point/ Date	Baseline Suspended Solids (mg/L) UKAS Lab	Baseline Turbidity (<i>ntu</i>)	Baseline pH	Loch Scolpaig Recorded Turbidity (<i>ntu</i>)	Loch Scolpaig Recorded pH
North Loch (08/02/25)	<10	29.05	7.30	22.13	7.54
South Loch (08/02/25)	<10	20.59	7.27	29.39	7.43
North Loch (13/02/25)	<10	29.05	7.30	26.75	7.19
South Loch (13/02/25)	<10	20.59	7.27	29.10	7.62

2.6 Cultural Heritage

- 2.6.1.1 The planned archaeological work for the enabling works construction phase has now concluded, with all identified cultural heritage features protected by heras fencing. All site personnel have been briefed with a toolbox talk and will notify the Construction Environmental Manager of any additional areas of interest.

2.7 Otter Species Protection Plan

- 2.7.1.1 Preconstruction otter surveys have been conducted, and mitigation measures have been incorporated into an Otter Species Protection Plan. General ecological construction mitigation measures are included in the Construction Environmental Management Plan and have been implemented on site. Speed limit signs of 10 mph have been installed on the access road for construction traffic. A site-specific ecological toolbox talk (focused on otters) was delivered to site personnel prior to construction.

2.8 Breeding Bird Protection Plan

- 2.8.1.1 Construction activities are currently outwith the breeding bird season. Preconstruction breeding bird surveys will be conducted according to seasonal requirements, with specific mitigation measures implemented as part of the Corncrake Habitat Management Plan. This phase of construction is expected to continue until 4 April 2025. Site personnel will receive a toolbox talk on ornithological constraints before the breeding bird season begins.

2.9 Waste Management

- 2.9.1.1 MacAulay Askernish Ltd is ensuring all waste is removed from the site in accordance with their waste carrier's licence. There are no skips currently on site. Asbestos waste notes have been received for the preconstruction removal works at Byre number 3 and for areas with identified debris within the farm complex, as recorded in the Asbestos Refurbishment and Demolition report published within the CEMP.

3 Visit Photographs

Photo 1 Temporary dam removed



Photo 2 Settlement pond



Photo 3 Silt settlement areas, potential for re-vegetation



Photo 4 Access road works



Photo 5 Access leading to future launch pad



Photo 6 Installation of Openreach ducting and manholes



Photo 7 Silt bags to manage discharge from the desilters (removed from site within reporting period)



Photo 8 Desilters (removed from site within reporting period)



4 Actions

Non-Conformance	Corrective Action
The site team has swiftly and professionally resolved any identified issues.	N/A

[illegible]

6 Appendix 1



Envirolab Job Number: 25/02699

Client Project Name: Spaceport One

Client Project Ref: N/A

Lab Sample ID	25/02699/1	25/02699/2								
Client Sample No	001	002								
Client Sample ID	North0	South								
Depth to Top	0.50	0.40								
Depth To Bottom										
Date Sampled	27-Feb-25	27-Feb-25								
Sample Type	WATER - EW	WATER - EW								
Sample Matrix Code	N/A	N/A								
pH (w) ^a	7.15	7.15							pH	0.01
Total Suspended Solids (w) ^a	<10	<10							mg/l	10



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