

**PLANNING APPLICATION REF: 25/00061/PPPM**  
**HVDC CONVERTER STATION, ARNISH, ISLE OF LEWIS**  
**REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED –**

577 OBJ	Additional Comments	<p>Further to my earlier objection to 25/00061/PPPM, I submit this supplementary representation in response to the additional environmental information re-advertised under Regulation 27 (30-day period beginning 7 August 2025). Please append this to my previous representation. I continue to object to the proposal at Macaulay Farm/Arnish on material planning grounds. The new documents (SEI No. 2) reinforce that significant environmental risks remain unresolved.</p> <p>Key points arising from the new documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding birds: The 2025 Moorland Breeding Bird Survey records red-listed species breeding in the development area (including hen harrier, curlew, cuckoo and skylark). Confirmed breeding within the site also includes meadow pipit, stonechat and greylag goose. This demonstrates the area's ecological sensitivity.</li> <li>• Water &amp; drainage capacity: Scottish Water issues no objection, but explicitly states this does not confirm the development can currently be serviced. Capacity for water and wastewater is not confirmed, capacity cannot be reserved until after any planning consent, surface water will not be accepted to the combined sewer, and there may be conflicts with existing assets. This indicates servicing risks and potential reliance on off-site upgrades not before the committee.</li> <li>• Peat/carbon-rich soils: The SEI reissues peat probing and NVC data and notes layout updates; however, the applicant states "none of the conclusions have changed." Peat disturbance, carbon loss risk and permanent habitat loss therefore remain significant concerns.</li> <li>• Landscape/visual &amp; cumulative effects: Additional visualisations and cumulative assessment have been provided, yet again the applicant confirms conclusions are unchanged, implying that the significant landscape/visual effects persist.</li> </ul> <p>Given the above, my objection stands and is strengthened by the SEI.</p> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt and attach this to my earlier representation.</p>
09 OBJ	Additional Comments	<p>I am writing to object to application 25/00061/PPPM and to the additional environmental information now submitted and re-advertised under Regulation 27. I submit this within the 30-day period beginning 7 August 2025.</p> <p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</p> <p>The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches—is grossly disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p>Our Island Home will suffer immeasurable damage in the long term for short term gain. This development is not welcome.</p>

		<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through: mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to permanent damage to peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</p> <p>The proposed site is home to Red List bird species—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>• Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> </ul> <p>The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</p> <p>a) Noise and Light Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous low-frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</li> <li>• 24-hour security and operational lighting will result in significant light pollution, disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>b) Visual Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>• The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</p> <p>The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>• Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul>
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		<p>period beginning 7 August 2025). Please append this to my previous representation.</p> <p>I continue to object to the proposal at Macaulay Farm/Arnish on material planning grounds. The new documents (SEI No. 2) reinforce that significant environmental risks remain unresolved.</p> <p>Key points arising from the new documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breeding birds: The 2025 Moorland Breeding Bird Survey records red-listed species breeding in the development area (including hen harrier, curlew, cuckoo and skylark). Confirmed breeding within the site also includes meadow pipit, stonechat and greylag goose. This demonstrates the area's ecological sensitivity.</li> <li>• Water &amp; drainage capacity: Scottish Water issues no objection, but explicitly states this does not confirm the development can currently be serviced. Capacity for water and wastewater is not confirmed, capacity cannot be reserved until after any planning consent, surface water will not be accepted to the combined sewer, and there may be conflicts with existing assets. This indicates servicing risks and potential reliance on off-site upgrades not before the committee.</li> <li>• Peat/carbon-rich soils: The SEI reissues peat probing and NVC data and notes layout updates; however, the applicant states "none of the conclusions have changed." Peat disturbance, carbon loss risk and permanent habitat loss therefore remain significant concerns.</li> <li>• Landscape/visual &amp; cumulative effects: Additional visualisations and cumulative assessment have been provided, yet again the applicant confirms conclusions are unchanged, implying that the significant landscape/visual effects persist.</li> </ul> <p>Given the above, my objection stands and is strengthened by the SEI. I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt and attach this to my earlier representation.</p>
377 OBJ	Additional Comments	<p>I am writing to object to application 25/00061/PPPM and to the additional environmental information now submitted and re-advertised under Regulation 27. I submit this within the 30-day period beginning 7 August 2025.</p> <p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</p> <p>The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches—is grossly disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p>The damage to our wild life and our environment is extremely concerning. Disturbing peatlands releases stored carbon, contributing to climate change and negatively impacting biodiversity and water quality. Healthy peatlands act as carbon sinks, but when disturbed, they can become significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The wind turbines, damage to our sea life, sea beds, I sat the other day at a beach on the west side and watched so many dolphins</p>

		<p>jumping, I've seen the salmon as they make their seasonal journeys on other occasions, I've seen eagles all in the area you want to destroy. I have also walked up grimshader to find an eagle sliced by the blade of the wind turbines there, it was reported.</p> <p>Sound pollution too, in the sea and above is a worry,</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through: mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to permanent damage to peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</p> <p>The proposed site is home to Red List bird species—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>• Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>• Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> </ul> <p>The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</p> <p>a) Noise and Light Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous low-frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</li> <li>• 24-hour security and operational lighting will result in significant light pollution, disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>b) Visual Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>• The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</p> <p>The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> </ul>
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