

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

NO	COMMENTS
01 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM, which seeks approval for a 400kV substation and High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station at Arnish. Having reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and associated reports, it is clear that this development would cause significant, irreversible damage to the environment, biodiversity, and peatland, contradicting multiple Scottish and UK environmental policies.</p> <p>Key Reasons for My Objection</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Destruction of Nationally Important Peatland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The EIA confirms that this project would be built on nationally significant peatland (Class 1 carbon-rich soils, deep peat, and priority peatland habitat).</li> <li>- Peatland is one of Scotland’s most valuable carbon sinks, and its destruction contradicts Scotland’s Climate Change Plan and the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 5 (Soils).</li> <li>- The development would require large-scale peat excavation, which risks releasing stored carbon and contributing to climate change rather than mitigating it.</li> <li>- The proposed peatland restoration plan only covers 33 hectares, while NatureScot guidance suggests that at least 200 hectares of restoration would be required to offset the damage.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Significant Biodiversity Loss and Policy Non-Compliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report states that this project would result in an 83 percent net loss of biodiversity.</li> <li>- The EIA identifies 20.02 hectares of blanket bog habitat loss, which is classed as an irreplaceable habitat under UK environmental law.</li> <li>- This scale of biodiversity loss contradicts NPF4 Policy 3 (Biodiversity), which aims to halt biodiversity decline by 2030 and ensure developments contribute positively to nature.</li> <li>- The Biodiversity Net Gain report itself states that the project as proposed “would not align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy’s overall aim of halting biodiversity loss by 2030.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Threats to Protected Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Surveys confirm the presence of otters (a European protected species) near the site, with evidence of foraging and movement corridors. The disturbance of otters would require a strict licensing process, and failure to mitigate adequately could lead to breaches of the Wildlife &amp; Countryside Act 1981.</li> <li>- The site is within 1 kilometre of the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, which is designated for internationally important bird populations.</li> <li>- Hen harriers, a red-listed and Schedule 1 protected species, were found</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>nesting just 0.6 kilometres from the development site. The EIA states that the project could have a “direct, adverse, medium magnitude” impact on hen harriers, which is significant at a regional level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The infilling of 0.75 kilometres of drainage ditches will result in the complete loss of these watercourse habitats, potentially affecting salmon and sea trout populations in the River Creed catchment.</li> </ul> <p>4. Visual and Landscape Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The development covers 285 hectares (equivalent to 399 football pitches) and will create an industrialised landscape on the outskirts of Stornoway, altering the character of Arnish Moor and the surrounding environment.</li> <li>- The project’s cumulative impact with other proposed infrastructure will create a major industrial energy hub on the island, which has not been adequately assessed for its long-term effects on tourism, recreation, and quality of life.</li> </ul> <p>5. Failure to Justify the Project in Terms of Local Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project is designed primarily to export energy from Lewis to the mainland, with no guarantee of reduced energy costs for island residents, despite ongoing fuel poverty.</li> <li>- The development prioritises corporate energy interests over community-owned renewables, making it harder for local initiatives to secure grid capacity.</li> <li>- The economic justification fails to demonstrate how the project will provide sustainable, long-term benefits to the local economy without harming existing industries such as tourism and fishing.</li> </ul> <p>Request for Action</p> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this planning application due to its significant environmental and biodiversity impacts, destruction of nationally important peatland, risks to protected species, and failure to align with Scottish Government policies on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development.</p> <p>If this project is to be considered further, a full and independent public inquiry must be conducted to assess its long-term consequences in full detail.</p> <p>I would appreciate confirmation that my objection has been received and will be considered in the planning decision.</p>
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1. Destruction of Nationally Important Peatland

- The EIA confirms that this project would be built on nationally significant peatland (Class 1 carbon-rich soils, deep peat, and priority peatland habitat).
- Peatland is one of Scotland’s most valuable carbon sinks, and its destruction contradicts Scotland’s Climate Change Plan and the National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) Policy 5 (Soils).
- The development would require large-scale peat excavation, which risks releasing stored carbon and contributing to climate change rather than mitigating it.
- The proposed peatland restoration plan only covers 33 hectares, while NatureScot guidance suggests that at least 200 hectares of restoration would be required to offset the damage.

2. Significant Biodiversity Loss and Policy Non-Compliance

- The Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) report states that this project would result in an 83 percent net loss of biodiversity.
- The EIA identifies 20.02 hectares of blanket bog habitat loss, which is classed as an irreplaceable habitat under UK environmental law.
- This scale of biodiversity loss contradicts NPF4 Policy 3 (Biodiversity), which aims to halt biodiversity decline by 2030 and ensure developments contribute positively to nature.
- The Biodiversity Net Gain report itself states that the project as proposed “would not align with the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy’s overall aim of halting biodiversity loss by 2030.”

3. Threats to Protected Species

- Surveys confirm the presence of otters (a European protected species) near the site, with evidence of foraging and movement corridors. The disturbance of otters would require a strict licensing process, and failure to mitigate adequately could lead to breaches of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981.
- The site is within 1 kilometre of the Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, which is designated for internationally important bird populations.
- Hen harriers, a red-listed and Schedule 1 protected species, were found nesting just 0.6 kilometres from the development site. The EIA states that the project could have a “direct, adverse, medium magnitude” impact on hen harriers, which is significant at a regional level.
- The infilling of 0.75 kilometres of drainage ditches will result in the complete loss of these watercourse habitats, potentially affecting salmon and sea trout populations in the River Creed catchment.

4. Visual and Landscape Impact

- The development covers 285 hectares (equivalent to 399 football pitches) and will create an industrialised landscape on the outskirts of Stornoway, altering the character of Arnish Moor and the surrounding environment.
- The project’s cumulative impact with other proposed infrastructure will create

	<p>a major industrial energy hub on the island, which has not been adequately assessed for its long-term effects on tourism, recreation, and quality of life.</p> <p>5. Failure to Justify the Project in Terms of Local Benefit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The project is designed primarily to export energy from Lewis to the mainland, with no guarantee of reduced energy costs for island residents, despite ongoing fuel poverty.</li> <li>- The development prioritises corporate energy interests over community-owned renewables, making it harder for local initiatives to secure grid capacity.</li> <li>- The economic justification fails to demonstrate how the project will provide sustainable, long-term benefits to the local economy without harming existing industries such as tourism and fishing.</li> </ul> <p>Request for Action</p> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this planning application due to its significant environmental and biodiversity impacts, destruction of nationally important peatland, risks to protected species, and failure to align with Scottish Government policies on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development.</p> <p>If this project is to be considered further, a full and independent public inquiry must be conducted to assess its long-term consequences in full detail.</p> <p>I would appreciate confirmation that my objection has been received and will be considered in the planning decision.</p>
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- The development prioritises corporate energy interests over community-owned renewables, making it harder for local initiatives to secure grid capacity.
- The economic justification fails to demonstrate how the project will provide sustainable, long-term benefits to the local economy without harming existing industries such as tourism and fishing.

#### Request for Action

I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this planning application due to its significant environmental and biodiversity impacts, destruction of nationally important peatland, risks to protected species, and failure to align with Scottish Government policies on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development.

If this project is to be considered further, a full and independent public inquiry must be conducted to assess its long-term consequences in full detail.

I would appreciate confirmation that my objection has been received and will be considered in the planning.

#### Additional comments received 28 March 2025

I am not objecting to the net zero ideal nor am I in favour of continuing to burn fossil fuels at the alarming rate we are at present, it is the scale of this project which alarms me. The environmental impact appears to be overlooked in favour of corporate greed and profit.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.

- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.

- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.

- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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### 5. Failure to Justify the Project in Terms of Local Benefit

- The project is designed primarily to export energy from Lewis to the mainland, with no guarantee of reduced energy costs for island residents, despite ongoing fuel poverty.
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### Request for Action

I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this planning application due to its significant environmental and biodiversity impacts, destruction of nationally important peatland, risks to protected species, and failure to align with Scottish Government policies on biodiversity, climate change, and sustainable development.

If this project is to be considered further, a full and independent public inquiry must be conducted to assess its long-term consequences in full detail.



	<p>I would appreciate confirmation that my objection has been received and will be considered in the planning decision.</p>
05 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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09 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development will undoubtedly cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It will destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> </ul>

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11 OBJ	<p>whilst I generally support windpower and windfarms, this particular one raises many queries. From an environmental point of view (loss of biodiversity &amp; habitat) to the human cost and the lack of infrastructure to support this huge new hub.</p> <p>Our infrastructure won't cope with the influx of workers and lorries (we don't have enough housing for the local population, how are we going to house 800 workers that will build the hub and the wind turbines). Our roads won't be able to cope (who's going to pay to give us better roads?).</p> <p>I do understand everyone needs to sacrifice a bit for cleaner energy, but this</p>

	<p>feels like exploitation.</p> <p>I hereby object against the the building of this hub.</p>
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18 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. 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</p>

sensitive area.

1. Environmental Impact

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:

a) Destruction of Peatlands

Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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 an25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc

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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.

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This contradicts:

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- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a

	<p>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
19 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p> <p><b>Additional comments received 29.04.2025</b></p> <p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It is important to me because this will be the end of our island as we know it people will leave tourists won't visit and there won't be work on the island anymore, people come here for how island life is and our wonderful protected seas and land , this will cease after CNES ruin it along with N4</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
20 OBJ	<p>I wish to strongly object to the massive electricity transmission hub proposed at Arnish.</p> <p>I can see no guaranteed benefits to the people of Lewis or to the island itself.</p> <p>At a time when there is a campaign to protect our peat lands they will be destroying vast areas of class 1 deep peat.</p> <p>The company themselves have stated that it will cause 83% net biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Protected species will be put at risk such as hen harriers, otters and salmon.</p> <p>The people of Lewis are struggling to make a living whilst big corporate companies come here and trash our beautiful natural island just for their shareholders profits. I find it hard to believe that this project is even being contemplated. Meanwhile tourism and people’s daily lives will be hugely impacted for the worse.</p> <p>Please see sense and do not approve this monstrosity. Please don’t let this happen on your watch.</p>
21 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p>

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22 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to planning application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish. Thus development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment.</p> <p>Destroying class 1 deep peat, one of Scotlands most valuable carbon stores. 83 pct net biodiversity loss AS ADMITTED IN DEVELOPER'S OWN REPORT.</p> <p>It threatens protected species ie nesting hen harriers. Otters, Atlantic Salmon.</p> <p>It does not serve public interest. I urge you to reject this or at minimum refer it for a full public inquiry. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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and restore peatlands.

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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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

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The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

2. Severe Impact on Amenity

a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.

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The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

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There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

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5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

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.

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30 OBJ	<p>I wish to object to Planning Application -Arnish. My reasons are that this project will:</p> <p>1 Destroy Lewis's natural peatland</p>

	<p>2 Damage wildlife and their habitats</p> <p>3 Damage Lewis's tourism industry and the supporting cottage businesses which have evolved over many years. The visitors to the Outer Hebrides will find other locations to seek out the peace and tranquillity which is a feature of time spent on Lewis.</p> <p>4 Few new employment opportunities will remain after construction as much of the running will be from a mainline central control hub.</p> <p>5 The electricity bill payer will be tasked with paying for this installation which is to transport electricity to areas of demand in the south of the UK.</p> <p>6 The proposed Spiorad na Mara wind farm is Canadian owned, and it is wrong Scotland's prize landscapes to be damaged to transport their product to market.</p> <p>7 The European countries are using subsea transfer from offshore sites and offshore hubs to facilitate the power to market.</p> <p>8 This installation will bring with it much more infrastructure such as pylon lines, battery electric storage, solar power sites all of which are incompatible with Lewis.</p> <p>9 This proposal will do nothing to reduce the price of electricity for islanders.</p> <p>10 The electricity consumer pays for the community benefits which the developer uses a sweetener.</p>
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31 OBJ	<p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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33 OBJ	<p>I wish to object to the above planning application on the grounds that the local infrastructure does not have the capacity to support the proposed development. Specifically, I question the ability to adequately respond to an emergency incident.</p> <p>Lewis does not have the fire fighting equipment, training or personnel to deal with a major incident at such a site. The nearest whole time fire station is in Inverness and even then, a couple of fire engines arriving sooner, or probably later, on a broken ferry would not suffice.</p> <p>The record shows numerous examples of significant incidents at electrical sub stations and the extensive damage, risk and pollution that results. For example, the recent (small by comparison) Heathrow sub station fire on the 20/03/25 created a "major hazard" that required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 fire engines</li> <li>• 2 bulk foam units</li> <li>• 1 high volume pump</li> <li>• 70 personnel</li> </ul> <p>In addition, the area had to be evacuated and shelter, food etc provided by other agencies for the affected citizens.</p> <p>A remote and rural island like Lewis simply does not have the capacity to safely accommodate such a vast, industrial installation.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
34 OBJ	<p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment: going against the Paris agreement 2015 article 5 were consideration must be made for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, also the United Nations International covenant on economic, social and cultural rights articles 11 and 12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
35 OBJ	<p>I am writing to voice my objection to the plans for the Arnish hub.</p> <p>If the hub plans proceed this will have a devastating and irreversible impact on the local environment and biodiversity. This is putting many endangered animals at risk and has no consideration for the local environment.</p> <p>As a previous resident with close connections to Scotland, I wish to voice my concerns.</p>
36 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> </ul> <p>&gt; • It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
37 OBJ	<p>it's come to my attention that you are planning to build spirorad na Mara and wind turbines in an area that is critical to bio diversity.</p> <p>This is an abhorrent environmental risk to bio diversity on marine life, seabirds and the ecosystem as a whole. 83% biodiversity loss is not acceptable under any circumstances.</p> <p>This is my formal objection at the plans, please advise if I need to do anything else to formalise my objection further.</p>
38 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway, near Macauley Farm. My objection is based on material planning considerations, including environmental destruction, non-compliance with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and significant infrastructure concerns.</p> <p><b>Scale and Disproportionate Industrialisation</b></p> <p>The proposed development covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. This scale represents an excessive level</p>

of industrialisation in a rural and environmentally sensitive region, posing an unacceptable impact on the landscape and local community.

## 1. Environmental Impact

### a) Destruction of Peatlands

Peatlands are critical carbon sinks that play a major role in climate change mitigation by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would result in permanent damage to peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments.

This contradicts:

- **The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan**, which prioritises peatland protection and restoration.
- **The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019**, which commits to achieving net-zero emissions by 2045.

### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

The proposed site is home to **Red List bird species**, already experiencing significant population declines. Large-scale development, increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance will have irreversible negative impacts on these species, including:

- **Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)**
- **Merlin (Falco columbarius)**
- **Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)**

The **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contravenes that obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Local Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- An HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous **low-frequency hum**, known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.
- **24-hour security and operational lighting** will cause significant light pollution, disrupting the natural dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an essential feature of the region's heritage.

### b) Visual Impact

- The industrial design of the converter station is entirely **out of**

**character** with its rural surroundings.

- **Lack of natural screening** means the facility will be highly visible, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of this project, combined with **wind farms and substations**, will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a **significant increase in HGV traffic**, leading to:

- **Damage to rural roads**, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- **Increased accident risks** for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- **Congestion** on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, rendering the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- **Emergency services, drainage, and waste management** may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- Stornoway has **limited infrastructure** to support such a development, yet no thorough assessment of local service impacts has been undertaken.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

#### a) Failure to Consider Cumulative Impact

This application ignores the larger industrialisation plans for the area. The converter station is only one component of a broader network of developments, including:

- **Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)**: 33 turbines, up to 180m in height.
- **Substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms.**
- **Multiple onshore and offshore wind farm projects.**

Each project is considered in isolation, artificially minimizing their perceived impact—a clear case of '**salami slicing**', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which mandates <b>full assessment of cumulative impacts</b> before approving major infrastructure projects.</li> <li>• <b>The Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which aims to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Lack of a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale and interconnected nature</b> of this proposal, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been conducted</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must include</b> the combined impact of this converter station and associated developments.</li> <li>• Failure to conduct a full EIA constitutes a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected due to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to reject this application and conduct a full-scale review of industrialisation in this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
39 REP	<p>I wish to make comments on the above proposal. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed substation and associated works site is vast and completely out of scale and compatibility with current Lewis structures. It will irrevocably alter the character, culture and unique identity of the island and have long term, negative consequences. The impacts on our cultural heritage and historical buildings and sites will be significant, particularly with the highly negative visual impacts which will be visible far across the island, not just locally, due to the island’s topography.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction and associated infrastructure of the substation will destroy one of the UK's rarest environments: peat land. Token gestures of peat restoration by SSEN are risible: once the damage is done to peat land, it is done. Peat takes thousands of years to form. The peat 'restoration' area marked also appears far smaller than the actual area that will be destroyed during construction.</li> <li>• Construction of this substation will permanently destroy the habitats of bird, mammal and insect life: species who make this site their home and some of whom can only be found rarely in the UK, including Red List bird species. This wildlife also provides immense pleasure to the islands' inhabitants and valuable revenue to the islanders in the form of tourism.</li> <li>• Tourism will be severely negatively and permanently impacted: who will want to come and holiday on a vast industrial site?</li> <li>• The proposal states that some trees will be removed. There are very few mature, sizable trees on Lewis so it would be unacceptable to remove ones that are already here and have taken many, many years to grow.</li> <li>• The proposal mentions earth bunds and tree planting to reduce visual impacts but if the substation is 27.5 m high, nothing of that nature will block it from view. Hebridean trees do not grow very tall or very fast and frequently not at all. No earth bund will be big enough to realistically block out the sight of the installation.</li> <li>• The proposal mentions "irreplicable habitat": logically nothing should be built upon it because of this reason.</li> <li>• There are other contradictions: "<i>area of high potential for Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE) is located in the centre of the Site.</i>" This is described as medium sensitivity but it is right in the middle of the development? This does not seem logical.</li> <li>• The sound from the substation construction and then its operation will be disturbing for local residents and wildlife. It is unacceptable to introduce noise disturbance to an area which is currently and traditionally quiet and rural.</li> <li>• The lighting of the site – which will include nighttime flood lighting – will be hugely disruptive to local residents. It will also greatly disturb the local bird population. Nighttime illumination adversely affects behavioural patterns in birds and the nocturnal migration of birds and the site is also very close to Lewis Castle Grounds, the home of much wildlife. The lighting would be visible across vast distances due to the topography of the island and would destroy our worldwide reputation for magnificent Dark Skies. Light pollution will disturb residents and wildlife far and wide across the island,</li> </ul>
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	<p>not just in the immediate substation vicinity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27.5m in height is vast for this location, much taller than all other buildings in the surrounding area. Lack of sympathetic construction for existing Lewis architecture aside, have the notorious Hebridean wind speeds even been considered in this proposal? The distinct possibility of damage to buildings during construction and after completion poses an unacceptable risk to local people and property.</li> <li>• Constructing this substation will require a vast influx of construction workers. Where will these people be housed, fed and entertained? Lewis has no spare accommodation: NHS workers for example, struggle to find accommodation. If a special camp was needed to be built, this would destroy even more precious and unique environmental habitat.</li> <li>• Shetland has already reported serious problems with large numbers of itinerant construction workers in the form of drug use, prostitution and fighting. The Isle of Skye is also experiencing similar difficulties. Such problems would not be welcome in any community, particularly one such as ours which is already struggling with drugs to such an extent that a full time drug sniffer dog in Stornoway is employed.</li> <li>• The Isle of Lewis does not have the infrastructure to cope with an emergency at the substation in the form of fire. Fires at substations are not uncommon and the recent Heathrow airport fire has highlighted that such an emergency requires large numbers of trained personnel with highly specialised equipment and post-emergency resources. The Isle of Lewis does not even have one full time fire station, they are all retained. This substation would place the people and properties of Lewis at huge risk.</li> <li>• Our ferry service is already in a parlous state with 'normal' traffic and frequently breaks down, with or without tourists. It will be unable to cope with the extra traffic such a construction will necessitate. Likewise, our road infrastructure would be unable to cope with heavy plant.</li> <li>• 1.3.2 talks about providing large amounts of electricity to the mainland. This is clearly wind turbine related and it is unacceptable that this proposal appears to be being put forward on the assumption that proposals like N4 have or will be approved.</li> <li>• 1.5.1 : <i>"The Link will connect existing and future renewable (wind) generation from the Western Isles to mainland Scotland and the wider UK via subsea cabling"</i> Again, one feels there is an assumption that N4 will go ahead, whatever any objections are made about it. This suggests unacceptable bias in the planning process.</li> <li>• Accepting and approving this proposal will open the door for</li> </ul>
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	the complete industrialisation of the Isle of Lewis. Whilst providing huge monetary profit for external companies, it will prove devastating for our island, its people and its wildlife.
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40 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter</li> </ul>
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	<p>station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b>: The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b>  Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.  Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
41 OBJ	<p>I am writing to you in vehement protest of the planned transmission hub, Arnish Hub (ref 25/00061/PPPM).</p> <p>Protecting native wildlife has never been more dire. The rate which we as a global society are destroying habitats is applying, and the destruction planned for Arnish Hub is irreversible. It's critical that we make choices now to sustain a long-term healthy planet and reduce the rapid rates of extinction we are causing across the animal and plant kingdoms. Please make the right choice here and protect native animals and their habitat.</p>
42 REP	<p>This cannot keep going we are continually trading the life's of everyone's for big corporate money.</p> <p>There are 83% wild life that will suffer or even die!!!</p> <p>This isn't just a local problem, it's worlwide and it will have enormous consequences!!</p> <p>Please do something about it, don't just ignore it, stop it!!!!</p>
43 OBJ	<p>I'm contacting you to share my objection to the destruction of natural landscapes, whereby your project will wipe out 83% of biodiversity. There are limits to disruption and destruction and this is absolutely one of them, 83% is outrageous. Are there no lines to be drawn?</p> <p>I urge you to consider the ramifications, your profits mean nothing when there's no planet to live on. Or does the idea of a planet with nothing but humans on appeal to you?</p>

44 OBJ

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 Macauley 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.**

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.

### **1. Environmental Impact**

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a **significant threat to the local environment**, particularly through:

#### **b) Destruction of Peatlands**

Peatlands are globally recognised as **critical carbon sinks**, playing a major role in 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.**

This contradicts:

- The **Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan**, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.

The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019**, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### **b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife**

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will **disturb nesting and breeding patterns**, affecting bird species such as:

- **Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)**
- **Merlin (Falco columbarius)**
- **Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)**

	<p>The UK <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. <b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>b) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life</b> for residents.</li> <li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>• The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>b) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> </ul> <p><b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>b) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p>
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	<p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>● <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>● <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>● <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘<b>salami slicing</b>’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <p>An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> </ol>
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	<p>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
45 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate</b></li> </ul>

	<p>Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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46 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. The Outer Hebrides environment is too precious to be industrialised, the proposed plans lack long term consideration.</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.</p>
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	<p>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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to</p>
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	<p>acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
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47 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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48 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>

	<p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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49 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally express my objection to the two upcoming wind farm projects proposed by Northland Power in the west coast of Lewis and SSEN Transmission in Arnish. This matter is of critical importance, as it is becoming increasingly evident that these developments will bring countless devastating consequences that cannot be ignored.</p> <p>The ecological impact alone is staggering. Experts and environmentalists have reported that the projects are expected to lead to an <b>86% loss in biodiversity</b>, a horrifying figure that underlines the potential destruction to the delicate balance of life in the affected areas. The noise pollution from these turbines is known to cause immense harm to whales and other marine life, further jeopardizing ocean ecosystems. Additionally, seabirds will face frequent collisions with turbine blades, adding to the mounting toll on wildlife. These effects are not speculative—they are backed by research and are currently being widely shared and discussed on social media by concerned individuals and organizations worldwide.</p> <p>The movement opposing this project is gaining strong momentum both locally and globally, and I stand firmly with all those who are raising their voices against it. It is imperative that transparency be prioritized in this decision-making process; failure to do so will only invite public scrutiny. I urge you to choose the path of integrity and accountability, respecting the voices of those who advocate for protecting our environment and its precious biodiversity.</p> <p>I trust that you will take this objection seriously and reconsider the potential harm these projects will inflict.</p> <p><b>Additional Comments Received 31.03.2025</b></p> <p>I oppose these projects because it threatens the vital ecosystems that sustain life on our planet. These deceptive practices prioritize profit over preservation, putting irreplaceable habitats, wildlife, and natural resources at risk. For me, it's about protecting the intricate balance of nature, which I deem as our role as humans to ensure through our practices. No economical activity should be at the expense of our nature; after all profit will never outweigh the destructive impact that will follow through if we do</p>
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	<p>not adopt practices that are sustainable in all of the ways.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
50 OBJ	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 Macauley 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. 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.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:

##### a) Destruction of Peatlands

Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

##### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
  - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
  - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.
- There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
51 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and</p>

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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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52 OBJ	I am against the Arnish Hub project for power. Include my name AGAINST the developments
53 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore</li> </ul>

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54 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part</li> </ul>

	<p>of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection</p>
56 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle</li> </ul>

	<p>traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
57 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. 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>1. <b>Environmental Impact</b> The red line boundary of the site is vast. The northern section of the boundary, according to the submitted documents, contains large numbers of bird activity. The area highlighted for peat restoration is insignificant when compared to the amount that will be destroyed during construction. The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of Peatlands</b> Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing</p>

	<p>             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. The entire site is designated as "blanket bog" which according to the applications own BNG report considers it to be irreplaceable habitat. This contradicts:             <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> <p>             b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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>             2 The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:             <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> <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             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous lowfrequency 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> <p>             b) Visual Impact             <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. The planning statement mentions earth bunds and tree planting. If the maximum height for the development is 27.5M, no earth bund will be large enough to disguise that. Lewis is also famous for its frequent high wind speeds. This phenomena is well documented to stunt tree growth and slow down growing speeds. It will not be enough to reduce the significant visual impact.</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> <p>             3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns           </p> <p>             a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:             <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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> </p> <p>             b) Strain on Local Services Thanks to the recent events at Heathrow Airport – one of the busiest and therefore most staffed airports in the world – we know that substations can and do catch fire. When they do, it can require huge turn outs of emergency services to tackle such an event. The island simply does not have the capacity to deal with events at large scales like this. It would be catastrophic to both           </p>
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	<p>humans and wildlife alike. Especially due to increased drought, thanks to climate change, making the moors surrounding this site tinder dry for extended periods of time. It risks the entire island and its fragile ecosystem, not to mention numerous lives, homes and businesses. ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4.</p> <p>Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. 4 I would also like to point out a potential spelling mistake in the application. Section 2.2.4 mentioned “Rec 2 Lolaire Memorial Car Park”. The only car park that matches this description is the Lolaire Memorial Car Park. This demonstrates a lack of care and consideration for the people, history and place in which this application is being submitted.</p> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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58 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
59 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC)</p> <p>converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of</p> <p>Macauley 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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands</p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</p>
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	<p>have</p> <p>irreversible negative impacts on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and</p> <p>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>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
60 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Green energy is important to me and offshore windfarm sounds good but has to be also not just good for me but also for animals and the nature. Try to invest the money and resources in another way. Thanks for trying and caring about the future of our next generations. Kindly regards, Rebecca Bösemann</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
61 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This will be a noisy eyesore and dangerous for the community of Stornoway and beyond.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
62 OBJ	<p>This is my formal object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley 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>



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.

The time for the protection of 'vested interests' is over: the time for 'ecological protection' HAS to take prominence: why then are we staring in the face yet another project that is in willful disregard of this critical moment for our earth? Please take heed of what happened to lake Atitlan in Guatemala: due to man's hapless actions, species became unbalanced and this huge body of water is now a dying, algae-covered ecological disaster. This is just one example of man's foolish disregard for the ecosystem upon which our lives depend.

Here are the issues:

### **Environmental Impact**

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. This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

### **Disruption to Protected Wildlife**

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) ● Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) ● Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### **Severe Impact on Amenity**

#### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.

- 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.

#### **b) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### **Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

**a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks** The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## **Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments**

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

## **Conclusion**

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.

	<p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
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63 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns</b>.</p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>. This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> </ul> <p>The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)</b></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area</b> has <b>limited infrastructure</b> to support such an <b>industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>. This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <p>An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s</li> </ol>
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	<p>climate and biodiversity commitments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
64 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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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.

This contradicts:

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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.

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The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

2. Severe Impact on Amenity

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- 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.
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b) Visual Impact

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a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

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There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be

	<p>affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
69 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally <b>object</b> to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm. I’m an academic researcher specialising in the development of renewable energy and its associated impacts, and am currently affiliated with the University of St Andrews’ Center for Energy Ethics, and the Norwegian University of Life Science’s Empowered Futures</p>

Research School.

My objection is based on material planning considerations, including unacceptable environmental impacts that will result in unacceptable biodiversity loss, failure to comply with planning policy, unacceptable negative impact on local amenity, and concerns over the unacceptable cumulative impacts of the associated infrastructure that will accompany this development which will also come with its own supplementary and acutely negative effects. Finally, I also object due to the unacceptable potential risk of natural disaster presented by the ancillary infrastructures associated with these infrastructures for which a small rural island is not equipped to deal with, including risk of atmospheric, soil and aquatic pollution from heavy metals due to battery storage system fires, and the risk of aquatic and soil pollution due to turbine blade failure. Both of these are very real and common risks associated with wind energy infrastructure, and require strong environmental management and disaster response plans. They also present strong risks to both human and animal life and the wider economy of the island, including to agriculture and tourism. If nothing else, it is spatially and economically illiterate to generate wind energy so far away from where it is needed and consumed, requiring a far greater distance of transmission and storage, while being sited in areas of far greater ecological and social sensitivity. That this is being proposed is only made possible by a strategy of development that stands to be held up as an example of worst practice internationally for generations to come and makes complete mockery of previous Scottish Government policy that claims to support localism, regional strategic planning and community empowerment. While NPF4 supports renewable energy projects as part of Scotland's net zero transition, it also demands careful site selection and protection of landscape character, natural heritage and historic assets. It also asserts that all renewable infrastructure should result in Biodiversity Net Gain (although the methodology being used by the Scottish Government to calculate this is contested, as is methodologies used to calculate the impact of peatland degradation). It is clear that in this case, the development (and the Spiorad na Mara windfarm it is intended to service) is neither carefully sited nor well conceived, and stands to impact the entirety of the West side of Lewis in one form or another, as well as an area that is directly adjacent to the West side of Stornoway itself.

The proposed development therefore fails to achieve a balanced approach between climate action and local environmental protections, and is of a scale that is totally unprecedented on Lewis. It will require concreting over an area covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches— in a rural and environmentally sensitive area. The environmental impact of the proposed converter station is intensified by the associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, which collectively pose a significant cumulative impact upon the local environment which is unacceptable particularly through its destruction of deep peatlands. Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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.

This contradicts the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands, as well as The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. Net Zero implies carbon-neutrality, and sustainability. However, it is the reality that Scotland already produces a surplus of Renewable Energy, with an associated economic cost of c. £1 billion per annum due to constraint payments to private producers. In this instance, the proposed infrastructure is as distant from where the energy is most needed as is geographically possible, requiring storage and transmission over very long distances, which is economically prohibitive as well as inefficient in terms of energy loss and environmental impacts. It's therefore akin to saying 'it's ok to destroy the environment in Lewis to make Birmingham more sustainable, and it's ok to negatively impact a diverse native economy so long as SSE and Northland Power ensure their fiscal targets are met'. This project, and its associated developments it intends to facilitate, will not move the needle on Scotland's performance in respect to Net Zero. All they will do is ensure profit for international shareholders at local expense, and enable English MPs to avoid uncomfortable conversations about their own comparatively more industrialised environments, which are closer to where the energy is consumed and required, and better able to accommodate infrastructure of this type.

With specific regard to the significant impact on peatlands that this specific development will entail, it should be noted that although developers claim that peatlands can be 'restored', or more accurately, damaged in one area, then repaired in another, again the scientific methodology used to determine the success of this process is strongly contested by experts in peatland ecology. The recently constructed Viking Windfarm on Shetland has demonstrated the failings of building wind infrastructure on peatlands, and has been described by experts as "robbing Peter to pay Paul" due to the severity of the impact it has on carbon release from the degraded sites:

<https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2020/09/21/robbing-peter-to-pay-paul/>

Clifton Bain, advisor of the IUCN UK Peatland Programme, and an expert in Peatlands, states that the impact of excavating peatlands is "significantly underestimated" with the methodology used to calculate it is "...based on assumptions, based on outdated data, there's no oversight of how the model is used." <https://www.shetnews.co.uk/2021/10/29/experts-warn-that-wind-farms-should-not-be-built-on-peatlands/>

Experts who designed the original method of calculating the impact of peatland restoration now question whether restoring peatland once degraded is even possible: Dr Jo Smith of Aberdeen University states that "The science is not settled on the best ways to restore peatlands, or whether it is actually possible in practice."

<https://protect.checkpoint.com/v2/r02/> <https://theferret.scot/wind->

[farms-peat-climate-pollution/](#) .YzJIOMNvbWhhaXJsZW5hbmVpbGVhbnNpYXI6YzpvOjBiMmRmZDk1MGI5MzA3ZDRhYmE0YzQ3YmNhOTI0NzI5Ojc6MWY4MDpiNmI2NzQ0ODUxMWE5MjdmZjZINTNhNDfkOGZjZmY2ZGE0NWRkOTBhNzAxZDVIZGNI NjI2NTdlNDg2ZWEyMDZiOnQ6RipG

For these reasons alone, it is simply not compatible with NPF4 to build infrastructure of this scale on peatland sites.

Another reason for rejecting the proposed development is its negative Impacts on Legally Protected Wildlife: 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. Additionally, the development will result in severe impact on residential amenity for all neighbours in the vicinity, extending to the suburbs of Stornoway itself, including:

a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

b) Unacceptable Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station are large-scale industrial structures entirely out of character with its rural surroundings and unprecedented even in the vicinity of Stornoway.
- Even with natural screening (which has not been proposed) the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area, which is unique and is a major driver of tourism which contributes directly and indirectly to the economy of the island in a far more meaningful way than the proposed development.

The Development will also result in multiple unacceptable infrastructure & road safety concerns:

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic on one of the main arteries into Stornoway at peak times which will:



- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

The submission of the plans for this development are indicative of poor practices in Planning, severe enough that they could be considered policy violations in that they are purposefully ‘Salami Slicing’ one large development into many smaller packages and applications. This is a deliberate strategy to try and dissimulate their cumulative impacts upon communities and the environment:

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact.

This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.
- b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.

- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally incompatible with the holistic aims of NPF4 and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.

	<p>2. Unacceptable negative impacts upon wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>7: Unacceptable cumulative effects on the existing seasonal and tourism-based economy of Lewis, as well as the social cultural landscape that is native to the island and has traditionally pursued economic activities that are already environmentally low-impact in terms of their character such as agriculture.</p> <p>8: Unacceptable cumulative effects on the environment and biosphere of Lewis including destruction of deep peat carbon sinks and habitats, destruction of pristine marine ecosystems including known risks to seals and whale species that are endangered, risk to native and migrating bird species including protected birds of prey, and where BESS storage systems are proposed, risk of industrial fires which are known to spread toxic heavy metals for tens of miles around them, and cannot be put out by conventional means. Where water is used to try to put them out, this results in heavy metals contaminating soils and the water table. Where turbines are proposed with such large tip heights, there is already known risk of blade failures spreading fibre glass particles into the environment which also present a risk to marine and human life, and have already resulted in beach closures in the USA for months at a time, as well as irreparable contamination of agricultural land. These are very real risks and for which a small rural island is entirely unprepared to address should they occur, either in scale or scope of the resources required in the immediate term, or in terms of the economic fall out on other industries such as tourism should they occur.</p> <p>9: Unacceptable risk to human and animal life in the event of turbine failure or battery storage incidents: Where BESS storage systems are proposed, risk of industrial fires which are known to spread toxic heavy metals such as lithium and cobalt for tens of miles around them, and cannot be put out by conventional means. These are known carcinogens. Where water is used to try to put them out, this results in heavy metals contaminating soils and the water table, which impacts human and animal life, and has secondary economic impacts on agricultural and tourism sectors. Where turbines are proposed with such large tip heights, there is already known risk of blade failures spreading fibre glass particles into the environment which also present a risk to marine and human life, and have already resulted in beach closures in the USA for months at a time, as well as irreparable contamination of agricultural land. These are very real risks and for which a small rural island is entirely unprepared to address should they occur, either in scale or scope of the resources required in the immediate term, or in</p>
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	<p>terms of disaster relief for the economic fall out on other industries such as tourism should they occur. The Scottish Government has published no planning guidance on these issues, while permitting such developments to propagate rapidly and unchecked. Sincerely, I do not look forward to the day that someone from the government has to stand up in a parliamentary inquiry into a natural disaster that could have been avoided if the naive and uncritical enthusiasm for these developments had been better controlled.</p> <p>For all these reasons, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this ecologically and socially sensitive area, with proper environmental scrutiny of this project and associated planning applications.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
70 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This goes beyond a business decision - this affects the trajectory of life on our island forever. Please reconsider instead of ruining the legacy of our ancestors who worked hard to make this island what it is today.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate</li> </ul>

	<p>Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
71 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>I moved here three years ago after a serious life event to heal. I then found out about the island industrialisation plans being driven behind the closed doors of CNES and other members/organisations in the Island. It will ruin the island forever, it will not bring enough jobs and income to the islanders to warrant such an abomination. Please do not let this go ahead. It breaks my heart. So much subterfuge... it is tearing the community apart ...</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</p>

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
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Each project is being considered individually, which artificially

	<p>reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
72 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. 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. 1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through: a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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,</p>

releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) ● Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) ● Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

2. Severe Impact on Amenity a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach

	<p>contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
73 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including</p>



	<p>the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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- Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

#### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

#### Additional comments received 08 April 2025

I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.

I am disgusted at the need by the SNP and CNE-SIAR to drive home the N4 windfarm and the Substation in Stornoway, and the West Side, along with the supporting network infrastructure.

This is destroying what the Outer Hebrides is all about;

- Communities and tge spirt tgat it brings,
- Nature, at sea, (Whales, Dolphins, Sea Birds), on land (otters and basking sesls), and in the air (sea birds, migrating Swans and Geese, Sea Eagles, Golden Eagles...all strongly at risk of being cut in half)
- History and Culture gone will be the scenic backdrop to our culturally historic sites.

If this goes ahead, all breathtaking vistas that Lewis and Harris has to offer will be irrevocably gone.....as will be gge draw of tourists...and tge businesses that rely on the tourist pound.

They do not come to see windturbines, pylons and substations.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.
- Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- Noise & Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the

tranquillity of the surrounding area.

- Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- Traffic & Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

### 4. Planning Policy & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development

- Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.
- Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

Please confirm receipt of this objection.

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This is destroying what tge Outer Hebridies is all about Communities, Nature, History and Culture...all with breathtaking vistas.

### 1. Environmental Impact

- Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind

	<p>farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
75 OBJ	<p>PROTECT THE ONCE WHO CANNOT SPEAK and ARE LITERALLY JUST LIVING IN HARMONY.</p>
76 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and</p>

	<p>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 preservation of the uniqueness of our island is a responsibility passed from generation to generation. As the current custodians we are witnessing significant cultural changes with traditional values giving way to a more modern progressive attitude. We can, however, prevent so called "progress" from causing irreversible damage to our physical landscape and natural environment. Allowing this proposed development and its associated projects would be a massive overstep on our part. Selling out to the highest bidder, granting them the right to cause such environmental damage, would be a shameful act and would be viewed as such by any future generations.</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,</p> <p>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>
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	<p>other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
77 OBJ	<p>I wish to object to the above planning application.</p> <p>My main concern is the sheer scale of this project and its combined impact with other projects (associated or separate) which are culminating in the mass industrialisation of a small and rural island. The development is not proportional, sustainable or sensitive and it would be readily dismissed in any other part of the UK if it were not for our low impact in terms of national voting and the mantra of jobs, jobs, jobs. I am worried that there has been a failure to conduct a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) which assesses the full impact of multiple interconnected projects.</p> <p>As a biologist I fully support the transition to renewable and sustainable energy sources and every community must make sacrifices to protect wider wildlife from climate change impact. However, a balance has to be met to protect our own wildlife, and the build area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and light pollution will have a significant detrimental affects to this local wildlife.</p> <p>Longterm, there will be an impact on amenity as the noise, light pollution and continuous low-frequency hum and will impact on locals on the edge of town. The construction phase will place unacceptable demands on island resources such as policing and our volunteer fire service as large numbers of itinerant workers are brought to the island. Our transport links are already failing and will be eroded further as the fragile service breaks under the strain, with a knock on effect to visitors and the Tourist Industry. This workforce will stretch the NHS and the social</p>

	<p>impact of large numbers of workers in a small town such as Stornoway will be difficult to quantify and qualify. Our island infrastructure is at capacity and simply will not cope with the influx of workers.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
78 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>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> </ul>



- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

#### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
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Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
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#### b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.

	<p>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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 of this objection.</p>
79 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>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-</li> </ul>

	<p>frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is</li> </ul>
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	<p>made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
80 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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81 OBJ	<p>Whatever the argument is for the plan proceeding, it can be countered by the scientific truths promising the almost-immediate degradation it would cause. No country in the northern hemisphere is in a situation dire enough to justify the long term destruction of all of its, and the environment's assets for a bit of "quick cash". Humans, however adamantly we may believe otherwise, are a part of the planet's natural systems, and disturbing these systems that keep us alive is destroying us. Not just indirectly in the far future, but directly and ongoingly, the human brain is just not designed to be able to comprehend that. This is why placing our trust in the data and research gathered over the last decades would be the right thing to do, instead of letting our naive minds mislead us.</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> </ul>
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- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.

- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
82 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. 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>1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. 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> </ul> <p>Mr John Henry Pelan Holywell Lodge, Holywell Road, Clipsham, LE15 7SQ JohnPelan@Hotmail.com 31st March 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife The proposed site is home to Red List bird species—species of</p>

	<p>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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining</p>
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	<p>Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
83 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; We are loosing natural habitats and ecosystems at an alarming rate; we cannot afford to loose any more.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>

	<p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
84 OBJ	<p>I live in Bragar and I believe that the plans to construct huge wind farms in Lewis will cause irreversible damage to the island. 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 Macauley 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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands</p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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> </ul>

- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)  
The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.
- 2. Severe Impact on Amenity
  - a) Noise and Light Pollution
    - 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.
    - 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.
  - b) Visual Impact
    - The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
    - Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
    - The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.
- 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns
  - a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks  
The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:
    - Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
    - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
    - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.
  - b) Strain on Local Services
    - Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
    - The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.
- 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments
  - a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact  
This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:
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	<p>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</p> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p>Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
85 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
86 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
87 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul>

	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
88 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As graduate from Biology I have a thorough understand on the impact of this plan. There is a theme of unnecessary levels of greed in this world and I’d like to be part of the group to prevent it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul>

	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
89 OBJ	<p>I am writing you today about 25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc.</p> <p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple</li> </ul>

	<p>viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
90 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>I do not see how this proposal will benefit our Island in any way. Therefore I strongly object to it.</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>



b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

2. Severe Impact on Amenity

a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ●
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ●

	<p>Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
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91 OBJ	<p>&gt; 25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 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 Macauley 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>&gt; 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>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; The Isle of Lewis is the heartland of the Gaelic Language. My forefathers all lived</p>
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	<p>and breathed the language as I and my family do. By industrialising my homeland you are forcing me and family to leave the island and my culture and heritage. I have outlined my reasons for objection.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt; This contradicts:</p> <p>&gt; ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</p> <p>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:</p> <p>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</p> <p>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</p> <p>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</p> <p>&gt; The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution</p> <p>&gt; ● 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.</p> <p>&gt; ● 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.</p> <p>&gt; b) Visual Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</p> <p>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</p> <p>&gt; ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle</p> <p>&gt; (HGV) traffic, which will:</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>&gt; ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> <li>&gt; There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> <li>&gt; b) Strain on Local Services</li> <li>&gt; ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</li> <li>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,</li> <li>&gt; including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ●</li> <li>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ●</li> <li>Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</li> <li>&gt; (EIA)</li> <li>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</li> <li>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Conclusion</li> <li>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale</li> </ul>
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	<p>review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
92 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>My objection is based on material planning considerations and in addition I strongly object to the unacceptable biodiversity loss, failure to properly comply with planning policy and the huge negative impact on local amenity and disruption to daily life for the foreseeable future. All of which cannot be mitigated despite the measly measures suggested in the EIA.</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. 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,</li> </ul>

	<p>disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>
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	<p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection</p>
93 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>If all the wind power to be generated in Scotland is really needed for future UK needs, move it to areas which are not populated and will not affect the mental and physical health of the people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>(EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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97 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is tragic for our peatland and all that it contains. It can never be replaced as it's taken millions of years to produce this peat in the first place. Industrial scale of this magnitude is not appropriate for the western Isles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<p>including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p> <p><b>Additional comments received 17.04.2025</b></p> <p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The Hebrides are unspoilt by human greed let's keep it that way.</p> <p>Delicate Islands of beauty and grace are not suitable as profit drive power hubs that Scotland does not need.</p> <p>Stop the abuse of Sotland</p>
99 OBJ	<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 locals are well aware this is a big scam to industrialise our beautiful island. We don't want to line the pockets of the rich for nothing in return. The environmental impact will be devastating. Leave our island alone.</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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p>
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	<p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
100 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Development of an appropriate, community led nature, where the benefits go directly to the local community, would be a wonderful thing. This is most definitely not a wonderful thing, benefitting multinational corporations,</p>



who will make billions from it. Meanwhile, many of the people of Lewis would see an adverse effect on their income, much of which comes from people who want to experience the islands exactly as they are now.

If this goes ahead, it makes it possible for N4 to go ahead, and that would be a disaster.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.
- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.
- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

#### 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.
- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

#### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

	Please confirm receipt of this objection.
101	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We need to protect the unique landscape of our island and the ecosystems that live there for future generations.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>

102 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Is no place to be left unsullied? Scotland is not to be used as a moneymaking venture for those who do not care about inhabitants, be it human or animal. We are trying to save the earth, not destroy it further. This is an area of natural beauty and little pollution. How dare you ride roughshod over the islanders!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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103 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Aside from all other valid objections, this island relies on tourism as its main source of income. Why would anyone think it is okay to jeopardise a person's livelihood in order to line the pockets of industrialists.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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104 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development is preposterous and will have a hugely negative impact to our local community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
105 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to the waste and loss of Class 1 peat, which is ecologically significant and protected.</p> <p>To consider this permanent loss ignores the history of these island and countries of land being exploited for sheep; oil and now wind.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
106 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale</li> </ul>

	<p>development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. <b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please kindly stop destroying our environment.</p>
107 OBJ	<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>This development is based on fake science, there is no proof of climate change and as such the protection of this unique and vulnerable environment should take priority over half baked schemes to make "green" firms rich off the pockets of the taxpayer.</p> <p>If, as stated, the Scottish government wants to protect the environment then the best thing they can is prevent this scheme proceeding.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including</p>

	<p>wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment,</p> <p>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. 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</li> </ul>
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users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,

including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.

- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.

2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.

3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and

	<p>visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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 of this objection.</p>
108 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Has the release of carbon for the manufacture, transport and erection of this infrastructure even been calculated? In common with the multitude of wind farm projects that require it, I very much doubt it!</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. Previous plans to develop this site were rejected by Scottish ministers because the impact on the local environment. The environment here remains the same. Why should this be considered differently? Perhaps bigger backhanders are being offered.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 'Camouflaging' it with paint as proposed will achieve very little in this regard.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm your receipt of this objection.</p>
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113 OBJ	<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>This proposal is completely inappropriate. It will destroy the landscape and will negatively dominate the views when approaching Stornoway harbour. This will have a negative effect on the local tourism industry.</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</p>

	<p>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. 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal</p>
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irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,

including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

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Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

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Conclusion

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2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.

	<p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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 of this objection.</p>
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	<p>no excuse for this- it is wanton and hideous destruction. We are ALL dependent on ecosystems such as this- humans, in their arrogance, do not escape this reality. Future generations will know exactly who to blame but by then, it will be too late. It is every bit as bad as the destruction of the Amazon rain forest and any person supporting this should hand their head in shame. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
116 OBJ	<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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment,</p> <p>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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies,</p>
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	<p>including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
117 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We don’t need this industrialisation, there are no real benefits to Islanders that can make up for the destruction that these monstrosities would bring. 100 years ago the crofters rose up against the proposed industrialisation of Leverhulme and he walked away, let’s hope the same happens now.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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infrastructure concerns.

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.

### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind



	<p>farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
119 OBJ	<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>This project jeopardises far too many of our native species. We must not put them at risk for the sale of this hub.</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> </ul>

- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

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The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
  - Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
  - Multiple onshore windfarm substations
  - Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis
- Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

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.

	Please confirm receipt of this objection.
120 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>A large sea wind turbine company has just gone out of business after 15 years as it cannot function without subsidies . What happens to these huge structures when that inevitably happens here . Meanwhile our bills will continue to go up.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</li> </ul>

	<p>before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
121 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I live near the site and do not wish it to go ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4</li> </ul>

	<p>Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
122 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I'm only a visitor to this island but I would hate to see its very fragile ecosystem badly impacted by such a humongous project.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise</li> </ul>
123 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. The objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b> – an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b> – is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p>

## 1. Environmental Impact

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons and substations, pose a **significant threat to the local environment**, particularly through:

### a) Destruction of Peatlands

Peatlands are globally recognised as **critical carbon sinks**, playing a major role in 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**.

This contradicts:

- The **Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan**, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019**, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will **disturb nesting and breeding patterns**, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to **safeguard biodiversity** – this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- **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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an **industrial structure**, entirely **out of character** with its rural surroundings.



- Given the lack of **natural screening**, the facility will be **highly visible** from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The **cumulative impact** of the converter station **plus associated wind farms and infrastructure** will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

#### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a **major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic**, which will:

- **Damage rural roads**, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- **Increase the risk of accidents** for pedestrians, cyclists and other road users.
- **Cause congestion** on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is **no clear mitigation strategy** for these impacts, making the proposal **irresponsible and unviable**.

#### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- ☐ **Emergency services, drainage and waste management systems** may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- ☐ The **Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project** yet there has been **no clear assessment** of how local services will be affected.

### **4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments**

#### **a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application **fails to acknowledge** the **larger industrialisation plan** for this area. The converter station is only one part of a **wider network** of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) - 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered **individually** which **artificially reduces** their perceived impact. This is a clear example of '**salami slicing**', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to **avoid proper scrutiny**. This approach **contracts both national and local planning policies**, including:

- **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)**, which states that “**cumulative impacts must be fully assessed** before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan**, which seeks to **protect natural and cultural heritage** from inappropriate development.

**b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Despite the **massive scale** of this proposal and its **interconnection with multiple other industrial projects**, a **comprehensive EIA has not been completed**.

- An **EIA must be undertaken** that considers the **combined** impact of this converter station **and all associated developments** before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a **significant procedural flaw**, which could lead to **legal challenges** against the project.

**Conclusion**

This proposal is **fundamentally flawed** and must be **rejected** on the basis of:

1. **Irreversible damage to peatlands**, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. **Severe disruption to wildlife**, including protected Red List species.
3. **Significant loss of residential amenity**, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. **Major infrastructure concerns**, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. **Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact**, violating planning policy.
6. **Lack of full Environmental Impact Assessment**, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

	<p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
124 OBJ	<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>Across the entirety of Scotland our environment, natural landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and communities are being decimated by you and companies like you - enough is enough!</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,</p> <p>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. 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>

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.

- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle

(HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.

- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,

including:

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Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their

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125 OBJ	<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</p>

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.

The Hebrides are one of the last few places in the UK (and probably the world) where the environment is as undisturbed by humans as possible. Please think of what you are doing and the consequences as they will be irreversible to the environment and wildlife in the area. I certainly wouldn't be proud to look back on my legacy if it were supporting or implementing something like this. Money really isn't everything!

#### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

##### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

#### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

##### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

##### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of

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- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
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#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

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- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

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#### b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been

	<p>completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
126 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm.</p> <p>Though I now live in Spain I used to live on the Isle of Lewis and I have family who live on the island now. It is a beautiful unspoilt island and I have the best memories of living there.</p> <p>The scale and location of the proposed converter station would have a negative environmental impact including damage to peat lands, disruption to wildlife habitat, noise and light pollution and would have a negative visual impact.</p> <p>The construction of this industrial building requiring heavy vehicles to bring materials etc would really impact the roads on the island and could be extremely hazardous to other drivers and to the roads themselves.</p> <p>The wind farms with 33 turbines of 180 meters in height would be an absolute eyesore as they will be easily seen from the land and will spoil the beauty of the island. The disruption to the sea creatures would also be devastating.</p> <p>I feel extremely strongly about my objection to this plan and sympathise greatly for the people of this beautiful island who must be sick with worry about this proposed project.</p>



	I very much hope that you will consider my strong objections.
127 OBJ	<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>I live between the Isle of Lewis and the Scottish mainland with my partner. All of those that I know in Lewis are opposed to installing the 400kV AC substation &amp; HVDC converter. Ultimately, the substation &amp; converter will effectively distribute (wind) power to the mainland. The majority of the population of Lewis and Harris are mired in fuel poverty are facing industrialisation on a scale such as this is a disgusting reality to face, especially when they are set not to reap any benefits from the mass influx of wind farms and "cheap electricity" due to the UK Government's current energy pricing being linked to gas, and not priced regionally.</p> <p>Pushing the capitalist agenda aside, this does not include the impact on the ecology and biodiversity that the peatlands affected in this proposal offer. Lewis is home to a swathe of avian species and the ornithology reports are seriously lacking in all aspects. Not only will vast swathes of local ecology be, ultimately, destroyed, with peat-lands usurped to be "restored" in North Creed - with a clear deficit mentioned in the OWC report - there will be an AC and HVDC substation humming nearby Stornoway, year-round. The eventual light pollution that shall result as a consequence of this site has not even been a concern in the EIA, other than the sweeping phrase: <i>'Operation: Substations are not generally illuminated during operation. Floodlights would be installed at the Proposed Substation but would only be used in the event of a fault or when essential maintenance needs to be carried out during the hours of darkness.'</i> There is not any mention of frequency of maintenance periods, when these floodlights shall be, or will be required.</p> <p>Most industrial sites I have visited are lit up 24/7 irrespective of remedial or preventative maintenance, and I have worked in the energy industry for over a decade.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b> 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</p>

to peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments.

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## **2. Severe Impact on Amenity**

### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.
- 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. b) Visual Impact
  - The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
  - Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
  - The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.
4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments
- a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact
- This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:
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- Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:
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#### **Conclusion:**

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
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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.

Please confirm receipt of this objection.

129 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I do not believe our Island has the infrastructure in place to cope with this development and it will be detrimental to the future of our island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development</p>
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	<p>threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
130 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm.</p> <p>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>1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. 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 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. 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>



## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
  - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
  - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.
- There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
  - Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
  - Multiple onshore windfarm substations
  - Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis
- Each project is

	<p>being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact.</p> <p>This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
131 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact,</p>

	<p>planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
132 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of</p>

material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I'm strongly against this proposal as I don't want to see wildlife and land in ruin. Our island is extremely fragile and this mass scale project is not doing it any favours. We need to protect the precious environment to sustain our island for the future.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.
- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.
- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

#### 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.
- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

#### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure

	<p>while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
133 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Somewhere along the line we have to stop knowingly damaging our planet for the sake of profit and business. No matter how many jobs it may bring. No matter what it could mean for the area. At some point we have to understand destroying the important things in nature is not outweighed by monetary value, jobs or immediate gains. Something now does not equate to future generations not being able to live on this planet in the future. Make them go back to the drawing board and rethink where they can put this station. If they cannot think of other options then they are not in the right job. This is the line in the sand. Please do not cross it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations</li> </ul>

	<p>nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
134 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am placing an objection. I feel it's important to protect the Hebriden Waters and Pet fields. These are unique<sup>8</sup> and important ecological zones and should be protected against Industrial harm.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station</li> </ul>

	<p>covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
135 OBJ	<p>I am writing to strongly object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway. 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>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</p>

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle

(HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
  - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
  - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.
- There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.



#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

##### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,

including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

##### b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

	<p>Finally, our Scottish islands are a precious resource, not least to tourism. So many people across the world know of Lewis, through books and TV programmes and are horrified at the devastation which would be caused to the natural heritage of the island and to its people. 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 of this objection.</p>
136 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We visited Hareis last year and saw first hand the beauty of the landscape, crofters harvesting their allotted peat for the year and how diverse nature is. I also live close to where there are peat moss areas. I've also seen how much damage can be done to historic peat lands if a used by over harvesting or drainage. It shrinks and it is irreplaceable. Martin Mere is one such place. Peatlands are essentially for Varbon offset and should be protected. Certainly not built on. Wise up and leave it alone.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
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The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

#### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

##### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

##### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

##### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

	<p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</li> </ul> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
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138 OBJ	<p>I have lived at the address above on the West coast of the Isle of Lewis for 45 years, and also owned a business there for all that time.</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 Macauley 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. 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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands</p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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 biodiversity commitments.</li> </ul> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:</p>

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.

- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their

	<p>perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
139 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure</li> </ul>



	<p>(wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
140 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We should be preserving the beauty of our Islands not destroying them for the benefit of corporate businesses</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
141 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>This protected peatland should NOT be sacrificed.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
142 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact,</p>

	<p>planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The Highlands are being totally destroyed by energy infrastructure in the insane rush to meet net zero targets that will have no real impact on the global climate crisis. We have substations, massive wind farms, battery storage (BESS) and monster pylon lines and now even the iconic Hebridean islands that our family love to visit aren't safe! This site is totally inappropriate, will destroy carbon rich peat that we should be protecting if we are really serious about saving the planet, and not just allowing huge profits for developers!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge</p>
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144 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This infrastructure is destroying the country in the name of green energy with no regard for the people who live there and who will have their lives disrupted for years by monstrous development of the greenbelt.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football</li> </ul>

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151 OBJ	<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>This area is prime natural environment, leave it that way- we don’t want or need this development- wrong place. Leave our lives and nature alone.</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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>
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● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

	<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 of this objection.</p>
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155 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p>

	<p>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b>  Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
156 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>If we keep prioritising profits over our land what will become of our planet?</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul>

	<p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
157 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. As an American who grew up by the sea and has extensively explored the Outer Hebrides, I have the perspective to understand what a uniquely unspoiled place it is and how inappropriate any significant addition of human infrastructure would be.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services,</li> </ul>

	<p>drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
158 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I've been living in Stornoway all my life. I am attached to the land and sea. I can only see that this programme will bring devastation and industrialisation to the island, which will impact greatly on the communities which are going to be surrounded by wind farms, which will not benefit me or my community. The only people who will benefit are "fat cats", MSP, MP and councillors.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle</li> </ul>

	<p>traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
159 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I've been residing here all my life and this abomination that's being proposed is just abhorrent when we are not going to receive a crumb from it</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul>

	<p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
160 OBJ	<p>I am writing to register my objection to the above Planning Application.</p> <p>This proposed construction and its subsequent developments are completely out of place in an island environment such as this. It will cause irreversible devastation to the landscape and habitats of the island’s population, both human and non-human, to whom scant regard - and in the latter, voiceless, case outright disregard - is being shown. Islanders stand to derive no benefits from these constructions but will have to suffer the detrimental effects on their daily lives.</p> <p>Once again this Council is on the one hand eager to encourage tourists to come to enjoy an unspoiled landscape, and on the other hand equally eager to discourage them from returning to an industrialised and ravaged landscape.</p> <p>Many tourism-based island businesses will suffer considerable losses from these developments, and therefore the Major Applications Planning Team must refer the above Application to a Public Inquiry.</p>
161 SUP	<p>I am writing to express my strong support for the development and implementation of the High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) connector in Stornoway. This critical infrastructure project is essential for enhancing the</p>



	<p>region's renewable energy capabilities, facilitating economic growth, and ensuring long-term sustainability for the Outer Hebrides.</p> <p>As Scotland moves towards a greener and more resilient energy network, the HVDC connector will play a key role in transmitting locally generated renewable energy particularly from wind and tidal sources to mainland markets. By enabling the efficient transport of clean electricity, the project will reduce reliance on fossil fuels, help the UK achieve its net-zero targets, and bolster Stornoway's position as a leading hub for sustainable energy development.</p> <p>Additionally, the HVDC connector will attract significant investment, create skilled employment opportunities, and strengthen local industries. With improved connectivity and energy security, businesses and communities across the Outer Hebrides will benefit from a more stable and reliable power supply, fostering innovation and economic diversification.</p> <p>This project aligns with both national and local objectives to transition towards a greener future while simultaneously supporting economic and community well-being. I urge the relevant authorities to approve and advance the HVDC connector in Stornoway, ensuring that our region continues to thrive and contribute to the global fight against climate change. I believe any approval should be subject to an approved traffic management plan. The planning documents suggests that there will be a high volume of traffic some of which will pass through Stornoway. I believe that this should be avoided at all costs and any impacts minimised where possible.</p> <p>One possibility the Comhairle should consider is a Section 75 agreement to support the local area. Any S75 agreement should be tied to specific objectives for the long term benefit of the Stornoway area; funds should not be used to cover yearly deficits in the Comhairle's annual budget.</p> <p>I would also support a Stornoway Legacy Fund that is index linked and covers the Stornoway Trust area. For clarity I do not believe that it should be managed by the Stornoway Trust or the Comhairle. This fund should be managed by an independent body to support community projects as required by local people for a fixed period of time.</p> <p>A community fund is in line with the NPPF 4 Scotland's spatial objective that we have a "just transition" from green energy. If the island and the people who live here are the ones who must lead the way forward for renewable energies then we must have tangible benefits for our community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my views on this once in a generation development.</p>
162 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I find it hard to believe that local councillors are not doing everything they can to stop this happening on Lewis. The impact on wildlife and the</p>

	<p>peatlands will be irreversible. Gone forever. My family has always lived on the island &amp; to see this potentially happening is heart breaking.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
163 OBJ	Please note my personal objection, for the following reasons. I am writing to

formally oppose this development. Lewis is an area of outstanding beauty. This project is completely out of keeping with our way of life. We not have, nor want the infrastructure required for it. The impact on landscape, tourism and wildlife will be devastating.

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. 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. 1.

**Environmental Impact** 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) **Disruption to Protected Wildlife** 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) ● Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) ● Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. 2. **Severe Impact on Amenity** a) **Noise and Light Pollution** ● 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. ● 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. b) **Visual Impact** ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. **Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns** a) **Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks** The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which

	<p>will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
164 OBJ	<p>Dear Planning Officer,</p> <p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish. This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the</p>

	<p>environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest.</p> <p>Furthermore, the community benefit offered is wholly inadequate; in addition the developer has rejected the concept of zonal pricing, in which the community where a development is sited receives electricity at reduced prices.</p> <p>I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
165 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> </ul>

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166 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands. Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</p>

targets and biodiversity commitments.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks.

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact. This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore including Grimshader, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
167 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland’s most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>• It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer’s own report.</li> <li>• It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>• It is incompatible with Scotland’s climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>• It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ul> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public inquiry.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
168 OBJ	<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</p>

environmentally sensitive area.

I oppose the mass industrialisation of our island at the expense of the people and the wildlife that live here.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

#### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

##### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

##### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
  - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
  - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.
- There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
  - Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
  - Multiple onshore windfarm substations
  - Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis
- Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
169 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I believe this is an absolute hypocrisy. Not only will it be an I saw we are raping the earth resources to replace something that is fully functional and efficient. It seems an absolute hypocrisy. battery storage is not sustainable energy this is all a complete oxymoron.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple</li> </ul>

	<p>viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
170 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of</li> </ul>

	<p>character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
171 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. <b>Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
172 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. <b>Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. <b>Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
173 OBJ	<p>I wright to formally <b>OBJECT</b> to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm.</p> <p>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>We have seen quotes form various sources that "the popolation are in favour of the industrial developments "but as yet my family, or anyone we know, have agreed or been asked.</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>



### 1. Environmental Impact

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through: a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) ● Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) ● Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)
- The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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.

b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns a)

Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.

- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. (look at the amount of fires in this type of installation and the lack of services to deal with them on the mainland)

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact.

This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.
- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.

	<p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>7. Lack of evidence for Emergency Services to cater for any disaster planning.</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><b>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</b></p>
174 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact:</p> <p>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity:</p> <p>Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns:</p> <p>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste</p>

	<p>management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <p>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>The industrialisation of the island will destroy the culture, environment and heritage of the Isle of Lewis.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
175 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p><b>A) Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as</p>

	<p>critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>A) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>A) <b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and</p>
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	<p>other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) <b>Strain on local services:</b> emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p>b) <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) — 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments</li> </ol>
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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
176 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</b></p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> </ul>

- The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019**, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045

#### a) **Disruption to protected Wildlife**

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will **disturb nesting and breeding patterns**, affecting bird species such as:

- **Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**
- **Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**
- **Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)**

The **UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to **safeguard biodiversity**—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. **Sever Impact on Amenity**

#### a) **Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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**.
- **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.

#### a) **Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an **industrial structure**, entirely **out of character** with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of **natural screening**, the facility will be **highly visible** from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The **cumulative impact** of the converter station **plus associated wind farms and infrastructure** will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. **Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

#### a) **Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a **major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic**, which will:



- **Damage rural roads**, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- **Increase the risk of accidents** for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users
- **Cause congestion** on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway

There is **no clear mitigation strategy** for these impacts, making the proposal **irresponsible and unviable**.

**a) Strain on Local Services**

- **Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems** may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The **Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project**, yet there has been **no clear assessment** of how local services will be affected.

**4. Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application **fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan** for this area. The converter station is only one part of a **wider network** of developments including:

- **Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height**
- **Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms**
- **Multiple onshore windfarm substations**
- **Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis**

Each project is being considered **individually**, which **artificially reduces** their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘**salami slicing**’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to **avoid proper scrutiny**.

This approach **contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:**

- **Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)**, which states that “**cumulative impacts must be fully assessed** before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- **Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan**, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

**a) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** Despite the **massive scale** of this proposal and its **interconnection with multiple other industrial projects**, a

	<p><b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against this project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected on the basis of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption of wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist of a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
177 OBJ	<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 mass industrialisation of the Highlands and Islands is heartbreaking and the damage will be irreparable. I don't want my home and the home of my ancestors ruined forever. Not everything should be about making rich</p>

people even richer. This beautiful place should be treasured, not debased for profit.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

##### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

#### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

##### a) Noise and Light Pollution

● 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.

● 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.

##### b) Visual Impact

● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle

(HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

#### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
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- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
178 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to the proposed HVDC converter station, approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity, as detailed below. The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches—is <i>grossly disproportionate</i> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>● The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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 <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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>
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### **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

#### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### **4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments**

#### **a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

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#### **b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.

- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

## 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.

- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.

- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

## 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.

- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

## Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

Please confirm receipt of this objection.

181 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This net zero scam is appalling! It will ruin this island! Health and safety risks with volatile lithium on an island of peat. I totally appose this massive battery park!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</b></li> </ul>
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	<p>(EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
182 OBJ	<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>I truly believe that our beautiful home , our home and that of precious wildlife, is being sold down the River for corporate gain. We're being sold the illusion of green energy. It's greed! Pure snd simple.</p> <p>Please don't allow this to happen to our home.</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,</p> <p>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>

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.

- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle

(HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

##### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,

including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”

- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

##### b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.

- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.

	<p>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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 of this objection.</p>
183 OBJ	<p>I live in a small Island, which is now overcrowded and highly commercialised. Much of its intrinsic value as a place to live has been lost. Much of its environment, both on land and around its coast has been spoiled. I have visited your beautiful, remote and special islands so I do not write from a position of ignorance.</p> <p>I am writing to object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley 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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</p>

	<p>undermining Scotland’s climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>).</p> <p>To add to this, from developments in the North Sea there is already a significant amount of evidence of substantial numbers of bird deaths due to collision with wind turbine blades. Black backed gulls, kittiwakes and gannets have all suffered loss.</p> <p>The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe affect on Amenity</b></p> <p>b) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>b) <b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to</p>
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	<p>withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) <b>Strain on local services:</b> emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p>b) <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) — 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of “salami slicing”, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on</p>
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	<p>the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable</li> </ol> <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. Additionally, there must be proven economic benefit to the people of these islands, which sufficiently outweighs the permanent damage done to the environment.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
184 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm.</p> <p>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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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 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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local</li> </ul>
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	<p>services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara (THE NAME IS AN INSULT TO THE LOCAL POPULATION TOO!) wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</li> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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 of this objection.</p>
185 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.

Destruction to ecology, environment for human greed. The carbon used to build all these infrastructures from turbines to pylons to battery banks will offset in 20 lifetimes never mind the damage to flora and fauna. All this and we think one has alters the world's climate..it's how the climate operates in cyclical fashion...I am all for cleaning this planet up but this is not what this is.. all this nonsense must be stopped

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.
- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.
- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

#### 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations

	<p>nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
186 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
187 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I strongly object to the destruction of the Highlands and Islands for these monstrosities, with little or no benefit to the local communities who are deeply affected.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of</li> </ul>

	<p>character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
188 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I understand that offshore wind farming is going to be a game changer when it comes to renewable energy and I am very supportive of these developments when they work well. However, this project is a great example of greenwashing. How can you market it as green energy etc while being aware of the damage to peatlands (which store carbon) and natural wildlife. Additionally, you’re ruining Scotland’s backyard for energy they won’t even benefit from. Sustainable development is entirely possible, companies and governments just have to put rushed projects and profits aside.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global</li> </ul>



	<p>carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
189 OBJ	<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.</p> <p>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>

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.

I find it disgusting that the crown estate has seen fit to sell off Scotland's seabeds to the highest bidder with no care or consultation of the local communities, not to mention how it will damage the environment irreparably in terms of habitats and the natural Scotland that we love. It is our duty to protect the natural world, not sell it to the highest bidder with no care or consideration.

This is not the way to a greener future, this is yet another example of where capitalism and money are considered more important than local communities and creating a greener, nature-led solution to the problems we face for our future.

I believe it cannot and should not be allowed to happen for all the reasons detailed below:

#### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle

(HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this

area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
190 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to the proposed HVDC converter station, approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity, as detailed below. The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches—is <i>grossly disproportionate</i> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>● The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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 <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p>

## **2. Severe Impact on Amenity**

### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.
- 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.

### **b) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
  - Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
  - Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.
- There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## **4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments**

### **a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their

	<p>perceived impact. This is a clear example of so called ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
191 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns●</b></p> <p><b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
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192 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> <li>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul>
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## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

- b) **Noise and light pollution:** 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. 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.
- b) **Visual impact:** the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- b) **Increased traffic and road safety risks:** the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.
- b) **Strain on local services:** emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

- b) **Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:** this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway

Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) — 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

- b) **Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):** despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

### **Conclusion**

Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact
4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.
5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.
6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

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

	<p>scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
193 OBJ	<p>I am writing to submit my objection to the above application on the following grounds, my reasons being as listed below under their relevant headings.</p> <p><b>Construction Phase</b></p> <p><u>Construction Traffic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Island roads are not made to be used by the amount of heavy machinery and vehicles that the construction of such a development on Arnish. In addition to this, the initial construction of site access roads and site parking.</li> <li>• Island roads are not made to be used by the amount of heavy machinery and vehicles that the construction of such a development on Arnish. In addition to this, the initial construction of site access roads and site parking.</li> <li>• There will also be a heavier use of ferries in the transportation of materials and workers to and from the islands. In so doing Stornoway Harbour will itself be impacted by increased water and land traffic from the site to the harbour and onward to the mainland and vice versa.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ancillary Construction Accommodation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These would include workers offices, rest portacabins, portaloos, and storage containers holding equipment.</li> </ul> <p><u>Construction Noise</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased noise emanating from the construction site and all related construction vehicles will negatively impact the surrounding this unique environment and its inhabitants.</li> <li>• Noise from ground breaking, driving materials down into the land and associated works will also be detrimental to the land, the wildlife and the disruption of the overall peaceful ambiance that currently exists on Arnish. It is also unknown as to the extent of detrimental effects to sub-ground areas and inhabitants therein that will follow.</li> </ul> <p><u>Limited Use of Local Workforce</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of any jobs for local contractors will be of a negligible percentage as the applicants will use their own trained and qualified operatives used on previous projects at other locations.</li> </ul>

- The only businesses that would see an increased turnover would be food and drink venues, hotels and ferry passage. These would in fact be of detriment to tourism to the island with global holiday go-ers ingressing from the mainland who will have to compete with the surge of external workforce and will put them off of returning to the islands.

### **Operation of the Site Post-installation**

#### Size, Scale & Visual Amenity

- Covering an area of approximate 285 hectares these proposals in this application will be detrimental to the natural environment and to surrounding areas.
- If allowed, there would be a significant loss of visual amenity and the enjoyment of the peaceful ambiance of the application site which encompasses the proposed turbines on Arnish.
- Both the Converter Station and turbine proposals will considerably impact visual amenity for islanders and visitors. For an island which relies on tourism-based revenue (ferries and ancillary support contracts), vacation pods, crafted items and giftshops, cafes and eateries, sites of special historic interest, as yet unspoilt coastlines, such a development will therefore heavily impact tourism to the islands (I understand some of those vacationing here are repeat visitors).
- As you are aware, there are various unobtrusive holiday pods nestled within the many villages of the Islands fitting in with their surroundings amidst the contoured rocks and shapely hills which overlook the many lochs. However, the proposed development is completely incongruous to its surroundings, local landmarks as well as historic buildings and more recent structures.
- At a total height of 27.5m the proposed converter station is visually intrusive to both tourists and islanders alike, impacting the enjoyment of amenities which include the Castle and its serene open spaces, industrialising the local scenery as well as Stornoway Harbour area itself.
- If given the go-ahead this development will negatively affect the enjoyment of the surrounding amenity by the islander workforce, and become less appealing as a place for newcomers to take up residence, such as essential doctors, specialists, dentists, nurses, care workers and skilled tradesmen and women. It is important that the workforce is constantly being replenished to ensure that it can provide ongoing support to islanders.

- Should this proposal be approved, the property market will be detrimentally affected, there being a significant downturn in value of housing, retail and commercial properties (the retail and commercial aspects being a knock on effect from the drop in tourism).

Environmental Concerns & Endangerment to life

- I am concerned about the potential fire risks posed by the development being set within the peatland as well as from the converter station itself and any battery storage. I believe that much of the public have been made aware of the significant fire risk posed by the newer elements of the electricity infrastructure as well as the combustibility of the turbines themselves.  
The proposal to set them in vast swathes amidst combustible peatland invites tragedy as we have seen just how quickly the moorland here sets afire, even when wet.
- Not only is there the possibility of malfunction there is also the possibility of lightning striking the installations which could also initiate fire.
- One must also consider that lives will be put at risk in terms of any EMF radiation being emitted, as with pylons in previous years.
- This application poses a risk to life, both animal and human and a risk of the loss of a variety of protected species, such as otters, any nesting hen harriers and Atlantic salmon in their habitats as well as the destruction of other birds, mammals and insect life.
- At the very least the application seeks to industrialise our natural landscape here severely impacting all wildlife and the habitat within which it currently flourishes.
- Any noise and vibration generated by the proposals would detrimentally affect the natural environment and its inhabitants. Nearby farms and their livestock will also suffer from any such emitted from the plant and machinery.
- The damage to the Class 1 deep peatland (one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores) and destruction of the general habitat and landscape will be irreparable once the installation work has begun.
- This development if allowed will have a negative effect on animals, particularly the bird life of the island. Such bird life (of both land and sea) which has resided here year on year will not be able to quantify the threat the turbines produce or have the ability to judge the speed and breadth of the propellers which when coming into contact will be the cause of significant painful injuries and a lingering death.
- I am also concerned with regards to the increased flood risk these

	<p>proposals bring with their installation and any contamination of the flora and fauna of the application site and broader area surrounding it.</p> <p>There are many reasons why such proposals will be detrimental and devastating to the unique (and up until now) protected habitats across and around our islands.</p> <p>With this in mind, and all those points mentioned above, I would respectfully request that your team make the recommendation for refusal of this application. It would be in the interest of all the islands' inhabitants, be they human, fauna or flora. At the least, please refer these proposals to Public Inquiry.</p>
194 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads,</li> </ul>

	<p>increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the <b>33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Fire Risk</b></p> <p>If a project of this magnitude is to go ahead, if there is a major fire at the facility who will put it out? The fire and rescue service locally is not equipped to deal with a major incident on a facility of this size and being an island we do not have the option to rapidly mobilise other units.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
195 OBJ	<p>This electricity Transmission Hub HVDC Converter Station and substations will ruin a huge area of wild land which can never be replaced. It is far too close to the community Arena owned by Stornoway Trust which will impact on horses, ponies, riders, dogs who use it. The noise created and vibrations may render the arena useless for future use.</p> <p>We do not want or need this development and if this is pushed through planning we will see the wholesale industrialisation of one of the UK's last untouched wild places affecting not only island residents but our wildlife on land and in the seas. The environmental impact will not be mitigated by green energy or cheaper energy and will rob the land forever.</p> <p>We would end up with damage to our peatlands, noise and light pollution, infra noise which is highly damaging to the health of islanders.</p> <p>Moreover the plan for this Transmission hub would undoubtedly pave the way for N4 which cannot be allowed to happen as it will not benefit</p>



islanders, carries no commitment of local jobs, will ruin our roads which are already poor and substandard.

I write to formally object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway, close to Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious issues regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.

1. Environmental Impact • Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. • Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise, vibration and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity • Noise & Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area and disruption for those living close by. • Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. The size of this development is huge for the setting. 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns • Traffic & Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks and disrupting travel for islanders. • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. The scale of these combined equates to the wholesale industrialisation of our scenic islands. • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made which includes all aspects of these proposals across the island. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative

	impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.
196 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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. 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>1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. 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 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. 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</li> </ul>

	<p>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the</li> </ol>
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	cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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.
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197 OBJ	<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. 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. The size of this proposed substation is substantially larger than this island, it's landscape, people and wildlife, can nor should bear.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints,</p>
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permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.

	<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>
198 OBJ	<p>I write to formally object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway, close by Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise major issues regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Not to mention the close proximity to housing and the Lewis Community Arena which is used by Horses, riders, dogs and many people from the local community. 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Irreparable damage that will last for generations to come, blighting the landscape forever. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to very rare Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise, vibration, infra-noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact for the foreseeable future. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise, vibration, infra-noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area, disrupting wildlife and residents alike. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. It takes no account of our wild countryside, treating it all as wasteland. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, for a prolonged period of time, increasing safety risks, on our small, rural roads. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. Not to mention the lack of housing and the strain that will be placed on accommodation to provide places for imported workers to live. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local</p>

	infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. These projects must be viewed in their entirety.
199 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development</p>

	threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
200 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The beauty of this Island and the unique natural environment must be protected. Leave it alone please.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
201 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km



	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Despite not living at home on the island myself any more, all of my family still do, and we are very strongly against this proposal for the following reasons.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Our island is not a backwater in need of saving from outside industrialisation, and the benefits to islanders will not be enough to merit the destruction this proposal will cause.</p>
202 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It's criminal to destroy something so precious and irreplaceable.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
203 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and</p>

	<p>infrastructure capacity. I also object to the profits from renewables being siphoned off island. I strongly object to the proposed developments - projects which use the smoke and mirrors of 'progress' and short-term jobs while locals continue to endure the highest heating costs in the UK.</p> <p>Where is the benefit for our communities? Local services have declined to the point of non-existence, and yet we sit on an apparent renewable gold mine. Millions vanishing into corporate hands while our infrastructure crumbles, people living in the shadow of the windfarms can't afford to heat their homes and the Comhairle continues to slash budgets for community services.</p> <p>Our councillors have repeatedly shown a lack of vision and have failed to negotiate meaningful, binding benefits for the people they represent. They are perpetually short-sighted or narrowly concerned with their own wards and fail to grasp the bigger picture. This is not leadership. The community deserves transparency, investment, and affordable energy—not empty promises and disappearing profits. Until these issues are addressed, any new wind farm proposal must be firmly rejected.</p> <p>Within the local community we do see leadership, with local action groups demanding more thorough research and considered approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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	<p>interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, and the failure of such developments to deliver real fiscal change to the islands, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
204 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm,, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
205 OBJ	<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. 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>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</p>

	<p>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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. 2. Severe Impact on Amenity a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the</p>
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	<p>massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
206 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raises serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise and Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure and Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic and Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy and 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of</li> </ul>

	<p>multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b>  Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
207 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b>  Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

208 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I feel this will negatively impact on our island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
209 OBJ	<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</p>



	<p>impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns. 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. Living on Lewis is hard, long winters, harsh weather , Wind that keeps you awake most of the night and if being honest fearful for the damage to your house ( and i have had lots of damage ( BUT its beautiful, our dark skies that attract people from the world over make up for it, sunrise sunset and aurora , without light pollution , this would destroy Lewis , and people will leave , the young kids wont return when they are older, and worst of all - the community benefit is just not enough - I attended the planned events from Northland and they said anything to make you happy - this included turbine lights coming on when aircraft approached , the turbines being lowered so they wont be seen at the callanish standing stones , total lies all made up and will destroy the place 1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. 2. Severe Impact on Amenity a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited</p>
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	<p>infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
210 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I feel this will negatively impact our island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul>

	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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211 OBJ	<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>In short, I find this proposal quite sickening.</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>
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b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

2. Severe Impact on Amenity

a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple

	<p>onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
212 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b> ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. <b>Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b> ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
213 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The destruction of our environment on this scale is unacceptable.</p> <p>1. <b>Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. <b>Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character</li> </ul>

	<p>with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
214 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I feel this project is going to open the floodgates to industrialise the island with more substations, pylons and turbines and I strongly object to it going ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such</p>

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215 OBJ	<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>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> </ul>



- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
216 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Cumulative effect of this industrialisation is overwhelming and not necessary as Scotland produces 8 times the electricity for our projected needs in 2050.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
217 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
218 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Visiting my in laws on Lewis for over 40 years has shown me how important the wildlife and landscape is, not only for its wildness but it's ability to help with climate change.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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219 OBJ	<p>I write on behalf of myself and the equines at XXX, to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, close to the Lewis Community Arena owned by Stornoway Trust, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This will directly affect all horses and ponies taken to the arena for Equine Facilitated Learning which we are just starting to provide for people with Mental Health difficulties, depression, anxiety and other life challenges.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>This coupled with the concerns we have with regards to public use of the arena. Noise, vibration, infra noise and construction disruption to this valuable local asset could make it unsuitable for use during construction of the Electric Transmission Hub and thereafter due to the close proximity to the arena. Vibration, construction noise, infra-noise could possibly make it a dangerous place for horses and riders. It may render the arena a dangerous place for horses and cause access problems for trailers, horse boxes and Livery wagons.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Particularly those carrying livestock and Equines.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to</li> </ul>
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	<p>cope with the demands of this facility. Housing accommodation and access to public transport, delays in travel and impact on tourism must be considered more proportionately. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Consultations have never included enough options for people to express their wishes to not have this industrialisation of our local areas. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, use of local public arena space, safety of equines using the arena and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. The consultations have been very biased towards the projects and lacking detail, in fact they may be illegal and open to challenge.</p>
220 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This will spoil our beautiful island, the devastation it will have on the scenery, wildlife and general infrastructure has not been properly taken into account, we do not want this here.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
221 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to the proposed HVDC converter station, approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity, as detailed below. The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football pitches—is <i>grossly disproportionate</i> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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 <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>● The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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> </ul>

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## **2. Severe Impact on Amenity**

### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.
- 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.

### **b) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## **4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments**

### **a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their



	<p>perceived impact. This is a clear example of so called ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b> This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
222 OBJ	<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>Having grown up on the Isle of Lewis and a proud Leodhsach and encouraging everyone I meet to visit the Island and enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the place, I am extremely disappointed to hear and read that this planned development has even been considered by the Comhairle. It will destroy everything that the island and islanders and tourists will hold dear about the place. Please do not allow this planning to pass through.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial</li> </ul>
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	<p>project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
223 OBJ	<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</p>

impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.

1. Need for this development

The need for this huge development, covering 285 hectares, in an environmentally sensitive area in the far northwest of Scotland, has not been proven. It is almost as far from the sources of large electricity demand in the cities of the south, as you could get in the UK. There are many much less environmentally sensitive places in the country, nearer to the source of demand, from which energy could be taken. Neither in the developer's EIA or in any other report have I seen a convincing argument that this is the only site available. Indeed, by choosing a site so far from demand, there will be large grid transmission losses as well as big constraint payments, making this development both inefficient and very expensive for UK electricity consumers.

2. Environmental Impact

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:

a) Destruction of Peatlands

Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. Anyone who has worked with peat will know that you cannot excavate it, 'manage' it in borrow pits and then reinstate it elsewhere as stated in the EIA.

The destruction of peatlands contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 3. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 4. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

#### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The severity of substation fires was recently seen near Heathrow in the London area. Despite having large fire service capabilities, the airport was closed for a day while the fire was brought under control. The small and part-time

	<p>scale of local firefighting capability could not possibly deal with a fire at a huge substation such as that proposed by this development. This alone should stop it going ahead.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> <li>• The effect of large numbers of workers being brought in from elsewhere to build this proposed development, with associated impact on housing, on health, and on our island way of life, has not been properly assessed.</li> </ul> <p>5. <u>Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</u></p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area near Stornoway, and for the wider island area. Taken cumulatively, these multiple industrial developments will change Lewis from being a rural area full of nature and natural value, to being an industrial area with very few viewpoints without large industrial infrastructure in view. At no time has the full picture for the whole of Lewis been presented to the public for consultation and debate. The full picture has been kept from the public, and this fact continues with this application.</p> <p>The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>For instance, there is a clear link between this proposed substation and the proposed N4 development by Northland Power, both needing each other yet not linked together in public presentations by the developers.</p> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to</li> </ul>
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	<p>protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected based on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks, fire safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area and of the industrialisation of the whole island, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
224 OBJ	<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>I object to the substation and wind farm because not enough consideration for the wild life and disruption to the island has been given. I feel this is just being pushed through when it is not wanted.</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,</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be</li> </ul>
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	<p>affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
225 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
226 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and</li> </ul>

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227 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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228 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This will have a major impact on marine life and birds. The impact will be devastating. My family and I who have lived here all our lives will be seriously considering leaving the island as a result of this awful project.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>
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232 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am totally against the industrialisation of our island home. Scotland already provides 80% more power than it can ever consume. This is all about profit and the greed of foreign national corporations</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
233 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Please see attached reasons below.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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244 OBJ	<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. 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. The negative environmental impact on the surrounding area is clear - this is a delicate wildlife habitat &amp; ecosystem that has existed for thousands of years. To disrupt this in the name of “progress” is sacrilegious.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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</p>

	<p>species. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos) ● Merlin (Falco columbarius) ● Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</li> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead</li> </ul>
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235 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I wanted to build a house on the family Croft in Bragar one day as I've enjoyed the blank view the fish in the river and a holiday home owned my parents . If this goes forward the holiday home will not make money due to the primary selling point being the Atlantic view. I don't want to live and raise my own family in front of a wind farm and the fish and wild life in the area will be affected. Locals are being lied to about local job opportunities and environmental and financial impacts. The energy produced from this will mostly be sent down south. The installation will use hired crew with no guarantees for locals and they will have a huge impact on the sea bed and water around them which is arguably worse than using fossil fuels</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> </ul>

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239 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I live close to proposed substation and also have a Croft and House at 43 North Bragar which will be worthless if N4 goes ahead and my daughter has had to put plans on hold for building a house on the Croft as the community would be destroyed by N4 and her property would also be worth zero with these turbines in full view</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management</li> </ul>

	<p>systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
240 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As someone who has spent most of my 73 year life living in Shawbost on the west side of the island, i object strongly to the proposed N4 wind farm. I am now taking the opportunity to object to the proposed convector station near Stornoway. I believe that both are completely out of proportion to the kind of developments required in the island. I would not want my generation to ruin the natural environment for the next generation.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic</li> </ul>

	<p>to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
241 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>In addition to the points raised below I am also particularly concerned that a transmission hub of this size would make it possible for the highly inappropriate N4 development to go ahead. N4 is the perfect example of a project that is far too large in size, scale and consequent devastation for both the westside residents and their surrounding environment. The consequences of inappropriately large windfarms would also have irreversible consequences for the wider environment, both on land and marine. It will not be possible to get back what is lost after the damage has been done. The scale of a project should be appropriate to the size of the place. The financial gains (to island communities) by obscenely large scale, corporate developments like N4 would not outweigh the many negatives.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
242 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The undeniable fact is that this development will have anything but a positive impact on the islands.</p> <p>This includes decimation of tourism that will impact livelihoods, the subsequent reduction in income to a huge number of islanders (and with it, a knock-on effect to other local businesses), and of course the plummeting value of island properties, with many islanders leaving the islands (akin to a new Highland Clearance).</p> <p>The suggestion of a huge number of local jobs bring created (and kept) is laughable as majority of jobs will comprise non-island workers, and once the development is completed, only a very tiny skeleton crew will be required for maintenance, leaving our beautiful islands destroyed having been raped by corporate and government greed.</p> <p>I do find it especially difficult to believe that the massive heights/size of these proposed structures is required today, with the latest smaller and variable</p>

	<p>modern energy technology options available.</p> <p>I also find it extremely sad and frustrating that any energy produced will be sold back to the Outer Hebrides where we have the highest rate of fuel poverty. Any energy produced, if this disgrace does go ahead, from our islands, should enable a massively reduced household bill for every island home. The paltry amount of community monies offered is laughable when considering what this company (non-Scottish) is to profit from us.</p> <p>Other factors include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
243 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I hope that the local authority and elected officials will take the side of the people they allegedly represent and the environment; not that of greedy corporations whose sole existence is based upon exponential growth for the extraction of profit.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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244 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The peace and tranquility of our islands are being ripped apart by developments such as this one!</p> <p>The wildlife will be non existent and the entire lifestyle of ours will be changed and lost forever!</p> <p>The way of life here is a haven for many, I for one do not wish for this to be taken away from us!!</p> <p>Why would any of us wish to live next door to an industrial hell, with constant bright floodlights, noise etc! It's a definite strong objection from me!</p> <p>Please leave our islands as they are, don't destroy our culture!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge</p>
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	<p>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
245 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I believe that the natural habitats that make the Eilean Siar so beautiful and tranquil should be protected for future generations.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

246 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm.</p> <p>These Islands need to be protected as one of the last wild Islands left in the UK &amp; our representatives first priority to be protecting the population quality of life and the islands unique nature instead of working with developers to industrialise our home.</p> <p>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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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> <p>The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</p> <p>The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. 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 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara (THE NAME IS AN INSULT TO THE LOCAL POPULATION TOO!) wind farms</li> <li>- Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</li> <li>- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to</p>
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	<p>Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
247 OBJ	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; A short sighted money grabbing opportunity to ruin one of the most perfect areas of Scotland. No material benefit to the island or islanders and all lining the pockets of people who don’t care about green energy, conservation or the Isle of Lewis. This needs to be shut down as soon as possible.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</li> <li>&gt; 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</li> </ul>

	<p>stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; This contradicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● 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>&gt; ● 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> </li> <li>&gt; b) Visual Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>&gt; ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>&gt; ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>&gt; ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> <li>&gt; b) Strain on Local Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li></ul></li></ul>
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	<p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,</p> <p>&gt; including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</p> <p>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>&gt; (EIA)</p> <p>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <p>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <p>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt;</p>
248 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It'll destroy the island where I chose to live after a head injury.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise</li> </ul>
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248 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am objecting to this development purely on the grounds of visual amenity. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and will be greatly damaged by these massive turbines.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na</li> </ul>
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	<p>Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
249 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am objecting to this development purely on the grounds of visual amenity. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and will be greatly damaged by these massive turbines.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</li> </ul>



	<p>The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
250 OBJ	<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>1. Environmental Impact 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. 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 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. 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 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-</li> </ul>

	<p>frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>Personally, as a surfer and emergency physician, for me the following is of most concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact on environment and climate: huge carbon release.</li> <li>- impact on nature: ocean wildlife, birds, etc.</li> <li>- impact on life as a local: increase of heavy vehicles on roads not designed for it, increase of workers who use drugs and alcohol and will injure themselves or fight in the weekends and subsequent increase of emergency department visits, noise, traffic, etc</li> <li>- impact on the image of our beautiful island: industrialisation, distorted views, background noise, etc.</li> <li>- limited transparency of the projects, how stakeholders are involved, etc</li> <li>- extremely poor compensation for local community</li> </ul>
251 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and</p>

	<p>other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
252 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>What is beautiful and unique about our island, both culture and landscape will be lost.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
253 OBJ	<p>I write to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This proposal has already caused immeasurable stress to the many people who are opposed to it. It is a terrible situation to have to battle exploitation of this level and I believe the council MUST do more to listen to the concerns now being voiced.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3.</p>

	<p>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
254 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I don't wish to see our moorland in particular ruined by pylons and access roads. The turbines with their lights will radically change the nature of our dark skies at the ocean's edge. 1. Environmental Impact • Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. • Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity • Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. • Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The</p>

	development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
255 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It will destroy the landscape, it's far too big for such a special area of natural beauty that is our island.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

256 OBJ	<p>I object to the industrialisation and permanent damage to our countryside, including our wildlife.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
257 OBJ	<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</p>



	<p>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>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. 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 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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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</p>
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	scrutiny.
258 OBJ	<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>Please let us leave one place in this world untouched. Consider the following...</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. 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> </ul>

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259 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>

	<p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
260 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

261 OBJ	<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 <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</b></p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)</b></li> <li>• <b>Merlin (Falco columbarius)</b></li> <li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)</b></li> </ul> <p>The UK <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life</b> for residents.</li> <li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>• The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms</b></li> </ul>
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	<p>and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>. This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local</li> </ol>
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	<p>services.</p> <p><b>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</p> <p><b>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
262 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>These projects destroy the island. It absolutely cannot go ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
263 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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. 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>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for</p>

	<p>these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services • Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. • The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: • Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
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264 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I look out of my window every morning and am impressed at the impactful and meaningful view of the war memorial. Please do not belittle this structure.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national</li> </ul>
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	<p>and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
265 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
266 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Barvas is my home, it's where I grew up and I want to share it with my Son and partner, maybe one day it will be their home too, I still have family there and I don't want the island destroyed for corporate gain which will not or will ever benefit those who live there, our unique Island will be destroyed and we stand to lose everything from our culture and our home as who in their right mind would choose to live alongside such destruction, noise/light pollution and we can't forget the damage to the environment, how is this for the greater good? Heartbreaking if this goes ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and</li> </ul>

	<p>other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
267 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul>

	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
268 OBJ	<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>I oppose the offshore windfarm and the destruction of the marine environment, cultural connection to the landscape; I oppose the onshore structures and pylon that will also destroy protected peat lands; I oppose the exploitation of the islands resources (again).</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</p>

	<p>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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
269 OBJ	<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</p>

	<p>environmentally sensitive area.</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> </ul>
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	scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.
270 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

271 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
272 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The devastation that those proposed developments will cause to the Island and consequently to the surrounding marine environment is unfathomable.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and</li> </ul>

	<p>artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
273 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
274 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The islands are a treasure that needs protection from anything that is purely to exploit it, why is our island being destroyed to produce energy for export</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character</li> </ul>

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275 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The sheer size of each individual windmill alongside the overall land coverage is a monstrosity. The noise this will generate 24/7 will be terrible also. We live on a small island and it seems, no matter where we are, and everywhere we look, we’ll be able to see them, and from my home, likely them hear at all times!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul>



	<p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
276 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I have visited the Isle of Lewis various times and my son and his family now live here. My objection is based on the impact that it will have on, not just the tourism which the island needs, but the environmental devastation.</p> <p>There is no benefit to the population of Lewis and it will be detrimental to the community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character</li> </ul>

	<p>with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
277 OBJ	<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>I feel that the island is being abused by large companies due to the smaller island population. Less people results in less noise.</p> <p>This is a project that would permanently change island life, our surroundings and our environment with what appears to be very little benefit to the local community.</p> <p>We have a duty of care to our homeland and I would hope those that represent our islands at a senior level would feel the same way. Below are a number of reasons to show the effects of such a project.</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</p>

this project would lead to permanent damage to peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s climate targets and biodiversity commitments.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

#### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
278 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This beautiful island and the wondrous views little by little are being taken away from us. The side of the island where they are planned is the worst area</p>

	<p>for lightning! They won't last long and will become a costly eyesore.<sup>9</sup></p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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	<p>The impact of this project from day one will transform this island in ways that are unfathomable, this is not something we can turn the clock back on.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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281 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk</b> and <b>N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> </ul> <p><b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p>
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283 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including</li> </ul>

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290 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I feel for the older community as their</p>

	<p>whole way of life will be disrupted. I have made some really good local friends and they have such great stories and memories. This would change the whole outlook of the area and their lives. 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p> <p>I feel for the older community as their whole way of life will be disrupted. I have made some really good friends who were born here and their stories and memories are wonderful. This would change the whole outlook of the area and their lives.</p>
291 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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. 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. 1. Environmental Impact 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</p>

	<p>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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and</p>
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	<p>cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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. Please confirm receipt of this objection</p>
292 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I believe the whole project should be scrapped as I see no particular benefit to islanders other than the disruption and damage this project will bring to the environment, landscape, seascape and wildlife. Not to mention that islanders will not benefit in any meaningful way from the wind farm development and its associated works and hubs.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
293 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The outer Hebrides are a place of outstanding natural beauty and of significant importance to a number of wildlife species. This will not only affect the community but it have a profound impact on tourism which is the main source of income for a huge number of people here and will damage the environment for species and rare wildlife. The outer Hebrides are unique so find somewhere less intrusive on the mainland to construct them if you must. It will be easier on the mainland anyway as the infrastructure is already there and you won't be ruining unspoilt lands with damage caused by heavy haulage.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
294 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Our island is unique in its natural beauty - this proposal will change our landscape that has existed relatively unspoilt for centuries and will change our way of life forever. It is environmental vandalism on a huge scale.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste</li> </ul>

	<p>management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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295 OBJ	<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>This is my home and it’s important to me that it’s natural beauty and heritage is preserved.</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</p>
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	<p>disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid</p>
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	<p>proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
296 OBJ	<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>I am concerned about the impact to the local wildlife as their breeding habitats are destroyed.</p> <p>The impact to locals going about their daily business when huge lorries are travelling up &amp; down the roads continually.</p> <p>Tourism will be greatly affected as people visit to experience the raw beauty of the Island &amp; not look at huge metal buildings on an oversized industrial scale.</p> <p>Removing tonnes of deep peat will be devastating for the environment.</p>

	<p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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. 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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal</p>
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298 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This proposal does nothing for the island or its inhabitants, it destroys wild beautiful landscapes, irretrievably damages flora and fauna. It is money driven and is not the best solution for anyone but the big companies behind the scam.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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299 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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. 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>I strongly object to the plans to industrialise the Isle of Lewis with wind turbines and the associated infrastructure, it is very clear that it, like other parts of the Highlands and Islands, is to be sacrificed and used as a battery pack to power the borders, England and mainland Europe through the interconnectors, to the profit of the development companies and the UK government at the expense of wildlife and habitats and the financial expense of, and health detriment to residents. It is also clear that a large percentage of the Islanders are unaware of the impact these combined developments will have or the amount of disruption they will cause, I asked many people last year for their thoughts and was surprised how many were totally unaware that any of it was planned (had it not been for social media I would have been in the same position as there had been no information whatsoever sent to my address) so it is clear that a severe lack of information has been provided, presumably to prevent a united effort to object.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. 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 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. 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 ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <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>
300 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of



	<p>material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I raised my daughter in Carloway and she is now studying Gaelic at Glasgow University. It's hard to sustain a life on Lewis and the beauty and grace of the natural habitats goes a long way to mitigating against the difficulties. I also worry for the indigenous families due to the colonising nature of the project which is reminiscent of the attitude that led to the clearances and other culturally insensitive social projects.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
301 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
302 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global</li> </ul>

	<p>carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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303 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I prefer to protect and preserve our natural habitat, wildlife and our coast. I feel this wouldn't be beneficial to our island and communities. 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2.</p>
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	<p>Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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306 OBJ	<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>Absolutely no need for this wind farm other than greed on the behalf of the developers and the shortsighted council.</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. 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</li> </ul>

	<p>feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
307 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>They are way too big and ruin our beautiful country side</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



	<p>a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
308 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This island's survival is now built on the beauty and nature of its coastal views, empty wide spaces and natural environment. Although I appreciate the ongoing need to generate electricity, it would be devastating to the island and its residents and render it industrialised and no longer a haven for islanders and visitors alike.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of</li> </ul>

	<p>a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
309 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Please reconsider this application and all the damage and the impact to this unique island that it could cause 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
310 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current</p>

	<p>(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>More appropriate siting of this facility and the associated wind farms would probably bring a lot of support for these projects. (Converter station at Arnish itself along side the largest industrial area on the island where the cables have to run to anyway and the turbines much further of shore) Proposing all this development which goes hand in hand as individual developments is disingenuous and very short sighted.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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</li> </ul>
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	<p>feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> </ul>
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311 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Lewis is one of our last wildernesses in Europe. These turbines will bring massive destruction to wildlife and the environment.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
314 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The turbines are too large and Islanders won't get the benefit of reduced electricity</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
315 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The proposed turbines and converter station are environmental pollution on a vastly misunderstood scale.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</li> </ul>

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316 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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. 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. Please leave this place with all of its magic and beauty. Respect it's peace and natural heritage.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. 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 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. 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 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</li> </ul>

	<p>built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
317 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>distraction to our beautiful island, with no positive benefit to anyone who lives here!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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319 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is not just important for today but for our children and their future.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>
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320 OBJ	<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>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,</p>

	<p>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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<p>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. This infrastructure is poorly thought out and a blight on our community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: The Scottish Governments Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 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. 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 regions natural heritage.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact %l The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; Salami Slicing of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) 33 turbines, up to 180m in height Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms Multiple onshore windfarm</p>
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	<p>substations Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of salami slicing where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotlands climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
322 OBJ	<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>I strongly object to the proposed substation. The size, scale and proximity to the shoreline will have a devastating impact on the ecology and natural environment of the Isle of Lewis.</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</li> </ul>

	<p>restore peatlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,</p>
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	<p>including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
323 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Will have negative impact on tourism. Dark skies, ornithology, landscapes are important attractions for visitors, never mind the huge negative ecological impact.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
324 OBJ	<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>This is simply the raping of the Hebrides.</p>

### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal

	<p>irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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325 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The wildlife of land, sea and air will be greatly affected by all types of land and sea windfarms, turbines, peat land devastation, infrastructure and light / noise pollution generated from the very start of all these turbine projects. This is not simply something that can be reversed. It is completely unacceptable that in the grab for money you are complicit destroying areas of such important breeding, migration and species habitats on the very islands that you and your families live in.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge</p>
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	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
326 OBJ	<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>I oppose the development due to the destruction of the natural habitat, especially the peatlands.</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. 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</li> </ul>

	<p>feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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327 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Our moorland is as important as the rain forests regarding the environment. It's a disgrace that our island is being destroyed for the sake of renewable energy, plenty of areas on mainland Britain, closer to power stations that these could go. The list for "why not" is endless</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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	<p>multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
328 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I live in these beautiful isles and am heartbroken by the desire to make them windfarms with no regard for the locals and their countryside and the native wildlife</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
329 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Our moorland is as important as the rain forests regarding the environment. It's a disgrace that our island is being destroyed for the sake of renewable energy, plenty of areas on mainland Britain, closer to power stations that these could go. The list for "why not" is endless</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
330 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Please don't let this be yet another island Clearance.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
331 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to noise, disruption and lack of benefit to islanders, from the availability of green energy being created here, whilst we continue to have comparatively high energy costs and the energy being created heads south on the mainland. We appear to get the short end of the stick for many years to come.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
332 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Monstrosities (proposed windfarms) that will have little or no benefit to islanders. Enormous substation will have an environmental impact on our island.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and</li> </ul>

	<p>associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
333 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>



	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
334 OBJ	<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>There are far better environmental friendly ways to source energy. Photovoltaic and tidal energy are better suited for the island. The negative impact this planned windfarm and the convector station on flora and fauna, maritime and on land, will be horrendous. We need to save the earth not destroy it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including</p>

	<p>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. 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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</p>
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335 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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. 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. Why is it okay to build this on our beautiful islands? We need increased connectivity and reliable transport links to facilitate such a monstrosity ... we just do not have the infrastructure to warrant this .... so sad!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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 climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: The Scottish Government Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution 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. 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 natural heritage. b) Visual Impact The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making</p>
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	<p>the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; Salami Slicing of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) 33 turbines, up to 180m in height Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms Multiple onshore windfarm substations Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of salami slicing, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
336 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise</li> </ul>

	<p>and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
337 OBJ	<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>This development will destroy the natural environment and habitat for wildlife.</p> <p>It will not bring long term benefits or jobs to the island. The short term jobs will be manned by people from the mainland.</p> <p>Electricity prices on the mainland will still be double those in London yet the island struggles with high levels of fuel poverty.</p>

	<p>This is currently a beautiful, wild island home to a multitude of wildlife. It should not be reduced to an industrial wasteland.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> </ol>
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	<p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
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	<p>thing to do on the island</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. 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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344 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am against this as there will be a huge detrimental effect to our local environment and infrastructure not to mention little benefit to islanders who already struggle with extortionate electricity bills and food prices. It will be a huge blot on the landscape! Are we not a place of unspoilt natural beauty, as per Visit Outer Hebrides...</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</li> </ul>

	<p>(EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
345 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This would be disastrous for Lewis indeed for any of our beloved and precious island. There's things are not built for the benefit of the local people. The electricity invariably is diverted elsewhere and the money does not stay even in Scotland. These things are hideous, noisy and kill birds Please stop this</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind</p>

	<p>Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
346 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The proposed destruction of our machairlands and pollution of our seas by the erection of massive wind turbines by a Canadian company I strongly object to. It will only benefit shareholders and add to energy costs for islanders. The infrastructure is not there to cope, roads built on peat will not withstand extra traffic What happens when we get winter storms? On a wild day I can see from my house waves shooting metres into the air at Butt of Lewis. Hurts to think that in the summer the sight of the setting sun at 'Roistean' on Habost Machair will be blocked out by whirling turbines. Call a halt. I am elderly and will probably never see it, nevertheless upsets me now what is planned.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste</li> </ul>

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	<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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p>
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	<p>&gt; I am selfish, really, I just don't want anything to change in Uig or anywhere on Lewis and Harris.</p> <p>&gt; I would like to see changes with our WiFi and many things, but most changes I see could happen in a big way, are not even necessary.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; It's just ridiculous to ruin our lovely village by filling it with turbines that can easily be placed in many places on the mainland. As that's probably the people that would get any benefit from it. The island relies on its beauty as it brings in the tourism. Which is the main source of income for many local businesses.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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352 OBJ	<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</p>

	<p>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>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>
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	<p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> </ol>
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	<p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
353 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I object to the destruction of peatlands and the disproportionate industrialisation of the Scottish islands wiping out generations of shared and precious culture and heritage</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
354 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I am</p>

	<p>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. 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>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local</p>
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	<p>services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 7. Irreversible damage to tourism and the thousands of islanders who make their living via this industry. 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><b>I see no real benefits to local communities, only destruction of a place that is uniquely wild and special</b></p>
355 OBJ	<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>1. Environmental Impact 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 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. 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 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 a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an</li> </ul>
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	<p>industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</li> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</li> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> <li>7. Irreversible damage to tourism in the area and to the thousands of islanders who make their living via this industry.</li> </ol> <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. I can see no real benefits to our community, only destruction and division.</p>
356 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis</p>

	<p>of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
357 OBJ	<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.</p> <p>The proposed development, is grossly disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area. The development (and its associated subsequent</p>

	<p>developments) demonstrates short term thinking which would be incredibly destructive for the future sustainability of the island and its people. The development would have detrimental long lasting impacts on the local ecosystem and island as a whole, which far exceed any of the proposed benefits.</p> <p>This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>. This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)</b></li> <li>• <b>Merlin (Falco columbarius)</b></li> <li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)</b></li> </ul> <p>The UK <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life</b> for residents.</li> <li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>,</li> </ul>
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	<p>entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li><b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li><b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li><b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li><b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li><b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>. This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that <b>“cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p>The island has several successful community windfarms which have already demonstrated the ability to bring in large amounts of revenue and power for the island, but which are appropriate to their surroundings in scale and sensitive to the local ecosystem. This development will only be detrimental and there are more appropriate ways to contribute to the future sustainability of the island which do not result in our exploitation for other's gain.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
358 OBJ	<p>– Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc 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</p>

	<p>infrastructure concerns. 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. 1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. 2. Severe Impact on Amenity a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines,</p>
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	<p>up to 180m in height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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359 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>When presented with the facts this development clearly ignores the significant damage it will inflict on our environment with no real economic benefit.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
360 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>A wind farm of this size and magnitude will irreparably damage the islands in many different ways . At the moment we have some of the highest energy bills in the country and there is no guarantee given by the developers that this development will lessen these bills in any way.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
361	<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>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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
362 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>As regular visitors to these isles we are shocked and saddened by these plans. You will deter future visitors and we will reconsider our future plans. It's all so unnecessary and ill conceived.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>This is not the way forward for energy. This is foreign owned and will be a blight on the ocean, endangering marine and aerial life. Dreadful.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
364 OBJ	<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. The proposed development, covering 285 hectares—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or 399 football</p>

	<p>pitches—is grossly disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area. Why are you not doing this around the coast of CANADA?</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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul> <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. 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 Amenities</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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> </ul>
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	<p>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects." ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
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366 OBJ	<p>HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

367 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It'll look terrible! There are a few projects on the go up here that stand to change the landscape and views island wide, industrialising in the name of green energy but imo it's a case of stick them out of sight, out of mind on our beautiful island. This won't benefit the islands one iota, it won't be local workers and it stands to seriously damage infrastructure such as roads and our practically untouched moorland and coastline (separate project)</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
369 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to the Arnish hub on the grounds of environmental impact as it will damage the peat lands and affect the wildlife habitat.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global</li> </ul>

	<p>carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
370 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>Noise &amp; Light</p>

	<p>Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection</p>
371 OBJ	<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>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</p>



	<p>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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off</li> </ul>
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	<p>shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
372 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species</li> </ul>

	<p>and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
373 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Having moved back to my home village when I got married I chose to raise my children on the westside of Lewis despite the drawbacks of island life as the positives - peace and tranquility, an unspoiled environment and close community, outweighed the negatives. My four children who are on the cusp of adulthood have always intended to make their homes on the island but are now unsettled and discouraged by these proposals. I am actually dismayed and disgusted - although possibly I shouldn't be surprised - that those of us most impacted are not being listened to and that our health, wellbeing and heritage are being sacrificed for greed. This is not about being 'green', it is greenwashing in the extreme.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></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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	<p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
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375 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to this proposed development as it's too close to town. It's too big, and will be damaging to the environment, especially peat which is our best carbon sink, which means it isn't a 'green' development at all. Public consultation has been sketchy at best and ill publicised. I can see no benefit to the local community or to the wider island community at all as all the power will be going off the island.</p> <p>You will be aware of the following;</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285</li> </ul>
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	<p>hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
376 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
377 OBJ	<p>I write in complete disagreement to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay</p>



	<p>Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Firstly, Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>Secondly. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>Thirdly, Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>Fourthly Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Personally</p> <p>I have a family member who attends Macaulay Farm, they have been through a lot and that is a safe place, for the disruption that is going to take place is not fair to them, have you considered the people and the animals at all or is this just about the money at the end of the day, I most definitely don't think you have thought about the island or the islanders.</p>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
378 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Obscene.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development</p>

	threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
379 OBJ	<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>One of the biggest draws to the Outer Hebrides is that they have unspoilt scenery and ecosystems. I don't believe placing these huge infrastructures on or near the islands, in an attempt to meet net-zero targets, should be achieved by destroying both the scenic views or the precious ecosystems and also the negative impact on wildlife and the islanders. Future generations will not thank you for destroying this beautiful place.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous</li> </ul>

	<p>low-frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with</p>
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	<p>multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
380 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. These turbines will destroy our habitat, way of life and the natural beauty that surrounds our island just so that electricity can be exported elsewhere</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
381 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish. We moved to Lewis 3 years ago to retire from the Cotswolds to enjoy the quiet and peaceful atmosphere of the island and to enjoy the birds and wildlife.</p> <p>This development would cause severe and irreversible disruption and harm to the environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1: It would destroy Class 1 deep peat, one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores.</li> <li>2: It risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report.</li> <li>3: It threatens protected species, including nesting hen harriers, otters, and Atlantic salmon habitats.</li> <li>4: It is incompatible with Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy.</li> <li>5: It would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing.</li> </ol> <p>This project does not serve the public interest. I urge you to reject this planning application or, at minimum, refer it for a full public enquiry.</p>
382 OBJ	<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. 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>This is an exploitative project with long term catastrophic consequences least of which being an irreversible environmental impact with short term financial benefits for locals and bigger dividends for elitists and those they buy off at a cost to uniquely bio-diverse wildlife. Factor in the environmental long term impact and the sheer hypocrisy of destroying peatlands which are a natural carbon sink - the very thing the WEF and its many headed NGO offshoots ram down our throats as the reasoning behind the "Climate Emergency" scam, going so far as to suggest building artificial carbon sinks. An obvious grift by itself as carbon credits are traded on the</p>

	<p>stock markets.</p> <p>We are stewards of this planet and our islands are ancestral homelands to which we are inexorably tied, we are its guardians. This project must be halted in its infancy for the benefit of future generations. The very idea of turning these islands into a wind farm for corporate greed is abhorrent. This technology, at this scale is far from environmentally friendly and as previously stated is entirely exploitative. It is also insulting to one's intelligence that we are to be exploited in this manner when we have some of the highest energy prices in Europe let alone here in the UK. Hydro power and nuclear power are currently far more effective solutions to generating affordable energy for all. I shall preempt the counter argument as pertains to environmental impact of these forms of energy production. Whilst all forms of human activity leaves a foot print, it is the size of the footprint that is important here. Renewables are not what they purport to be.</p> <p>Corporate greed allied with corrupt political stooges is the reason for the state of the world. Now that this outrageous proposal is on my turf, I will object and fight this with my dying breath. Those who sell us and our homelands out for shekels will be remembered and held accountable. The sheer scale of this is monstrous. The environmental impact during the construction alone is criminally negligent, showing little regard for the impact on local infrastructure during a long and protracted construction phase. This is before these towering eyesores are even commissioned. I urge you all in good conscience to reject this project. No amount of short term financial incentive is worth the long term environmental damage to our unique islands.</p> <p>Let me remind the councillors that they serve the islands and its population, not corporate interests. You have a duty to retain integrity and not be bullied or cowed by corporate lackeys in "hallowed halls" of managerial power be they either in Hollywood or Westminster. Future generations will despise your memory should you agree to this heinous project. Past generations will spin in their graves. Take the bold step and do what is right. Send these treacherous charlatans away with their Faustian contracts rammed up their hairy arses!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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 The proposed site is</p>
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	<p>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 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 ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p>
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383 OBJ	<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>I am in my twenties, from the Isle of Lewis and currently live on the mainland. I want to return to Lewis in future, in just a few years, and do not wish to return to my island with it having had major changes to its beautiful and unique scenery. I feel like this will definitely alter the scenery for the worse.</p>

	<p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b> 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> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol>
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	<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>
384 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The isle of Lewis should not be spoiled by these massive structures on our beautiful landscape</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge</p>

	<p>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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386 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to the destruction of our countryside just so private companies can make more profits. National infrastructure should never be allowed to devastate nature - there is no mitigation for what has taken centuries to grow.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure</p>

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388 OBJ	I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the southwest of

	<p>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>This development poses a threat to fragile peat lands, permanently altering the local environment and damaging vital carbon stores. There is no Carbon calculation available to demonstrate a net gain in carbon reduction from this development.</p> <p>The development will displace endangered bird species through damage to habitat and the associated fencing, lighting and activity will prevent any return.</p> <p>The loss of amenity in the vicinity caused by lighting and noise will also be a permanent change to the surrounding area. The dark skies will be lost and the internationally recognised unique beauty forever altered.</p> <p>The local infrastructure is not equipped to cope with the massive influx of personnel that will be required for construction. There will be an unsustainable stress put on health care and policing. The roads are in no way suitable for the volume of traffic that will be involved in the construction and the local amenities, shopping etc will not be sufficient for the additional 1500 population increase.</p> <p>Finally, there is insufficient transport infrastructure to and from the island to cope with the influx of personnel required for this development. As CMAL offer no protected spaces for islanders in this lifeline provision, the likelihood of prioritising the development personnel as a commercial benefit will further harm the provision for the indigenous people.</p> <p>This development will cause significant disruption to the whole island population for no gain. Vague promises of limited menial employment are not justification for this destruction. the purpose of this development is to benefit communities very far from our islands, a flawed political ideology and to support corporate profit.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment,</p> <p>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</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
389 OBJ	I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current

	<p>(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><b>Could I light out the indirect consequence of increased traffic and road safety risks if the HVDC converter station were built?</b></p> <p><b>As a GP trainee, I try to promote outdoor activities to improve both mental and physical well-being, for example by active travel to work. The response I often get is that the main roads are too dangerous for commuting while cycling or walking. Cycling frequently to work myself for the last few years, I can think of numerous situations that could be experienced as unsafe. An increased number of heavy vehicle traffic for the converter station will almost certainly discourage active travel. This is a further step backwards for the younger island population with a high number of mental health problems and a sedentary lifestyle.</b></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>
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	<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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies,</p>
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	<p>including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
390 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I have visited the Isle of Lewis many times and feel that this development is totally inappropriate on such a small island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
391 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
392 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> </ul> <p>Also, given that people are actively discouraged from cutting/using peat for fuel, I find this proposal highly hypocritical, going against current climate thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
393 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p>



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394 OBJ	<p>&gt; 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>&gt; 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>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; They’re becoming ridiculous to go to sizes bigger than the Eiffel Tower A danger to wildlife and birds and a blot on the landscape. They cost the earths resources far too much to produce a tiny bit of electricity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; 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</p>

	<p>climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; This contradicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● 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>&gt; ● 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> </li> <li>&gt; b) Visual Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>&gt; ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; (HGV) traffic, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>&gt; ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>&gt; ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> <li>&gt; b) Strain on Local Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li></ul>
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	<p>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, &gt; including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</p> <p>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>&gt; (EIA)</p> <p>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <p>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <p>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 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</p>
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395 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
396 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis

	<p>of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>For all the uncertainty and unnecessary actions of this government and CNES - we don't want or need Massive wind turbines built on the west side of lewis.</p> <p>I and my family object strongly.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
397 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately

	<p>2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
398 OBJ	<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</p>

	<p>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>These islands are famous for their beauty and natural, unspoilt landscapes and they rely on these factors remaining unchanged to ensure their futures. Building these structures completely destroys these qualities and so threatens the future viability of these lands. Stop this madness now. Wind farms must be offshore and transmission systems must be underground. Yes - this is the expensive option. But investing in our future is rarely the cheapest option.</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</li> </ul>
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	<p>character with its rural surroundings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</li> </ul> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which</li> </ul>
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	<p>could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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399 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I'm a supporter of renewable energy development and the need to transition swiftly away from fossil fuels but to propose a site in the Outer Hebrides for this scale of development seems biased towards profit generation and not the interests of planet or local people.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
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	<p>N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</li> </ul>
400 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; This is important to me as I am very concerned about the irreversible damage which will be caused by plans to industrialise the island.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</p> <p>&gt; The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate</p> <p>&gt; Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full</p>

	<p>impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p>
401 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is important to me as a Gael. You will rob my spirit of an irreplaceable part.</p> <p>The biodiversity of our rural communities need protection, not exploitation.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore</li> </ul>

	<p>substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
402 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Ancient monuments and beautiful surroundings will be disturbed by seeing so many large mills close by. The noise of the windmills will carry far and will disturb the ancient peacefulness</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore</li> </ul>

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403 OBJ	<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 development is too big for the existing infrastructure to support. The local amenity in and around Stornoway will be significantly impacted by the influx of workers and work related traffic.</p> <p>The addition of 1500 itinerant workers into the population is unsustainable with the current service levels in policing and health care.</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> </ul>

- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

	<p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
404 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
405 OBJ	<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 <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p>



	<p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</b></li> <li>• <b>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</b></li> <li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</b></li> </ul> <p>The UK <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life</b> for residents.</li> <li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly</b></li> </ul>
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	<p><b>visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller</p>
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	<p>applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol>
406 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; The scale of development is overwhelming and will destroy the delicate</p>

	<p>natural beauty of our island and provide no meaningful benefit to the communities proud to call Lewis our home. This project if sanctioned will devastate our landscape and damage the current tourism trade and way of life for islanders just to satisfy commercial greed of others who will not have to live with this infrastructure.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
407 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the</p>

	<p>basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Save the sharks!!!!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
408 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this</p>

	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This application does not comply with multiple planning policies and the impact assessments are woefully inadequate. As a visitor to the area I shall rethink where I spend my holiday finances if this industrialisation is approved. I don't visit such iconic areas to look at concrete and steel.</p> <p>Please refuse this planning application for the following reasons: .</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection</p>
409 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>On every level especially wildlife and ecological impact.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p>This is all so un-necessary, priority is all about SSEN profits. If it was really about the environment we would be following the example of other European countries.</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>
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	<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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
411 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We have a beautiful island and are being taken advantage of by commercial enterprises without due consideration being given to Islanders.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>• Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
412 OBJ	<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>I am horrified by the piecemeal approach that is being taken to planning consideration, that fails fundamentally to set out and understand the cumulative impact of the numerous large scale infrastructure projects that are currently being planned. Only by taking an holistic approach will we understand the full impact and be able to take informed decisions both to benefit the islands and to protect the precious environment.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter</p>
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	<p>station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
413 OBJ	<p>Whilst broadly accepting the application for planning permission, could I raise an objection to part of the submission. This concerns the translocation of excavated peat from the Arnish Moor site to the Creed North site. In the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, chapter 6, para. 4.8, the applicant states:</p> <p>‘Although relatively short-lived, the chemical works [the Lewis Chemical</p>

	<p>Works or LCW] was an example of Victorian experimental science and technology and is an important part of the development and history of Lewis. As such the Lewis Chemical Works is considered to be an asset of heritage value at a regional level and of medium sensitivity.'</p> <p>If the proposed translocation of peat were to proceed, the visual impact of these unique industrial archaeological remains would diminish significantly. All effort should be made by the applicant to consider other possible sites. At the last public consultation by SSEN - just 10 weeks prior to the first draft of the application being written - I was informed by a member of the SSEN team that the LCW site was being considered for peat translocation but the main features of the site would not be disturbed. The peat would be translocate to the far western end of the LCW site where, at present, there is some forestry. Access would be along the northern edge of the site, well away from the main features of canal, loading wharves, peat cuttings, tramway and works site. The forestry would be replaced with the translocated peat, being told that peat is a better carbon store than trees.</p> <p>I can only urge that, if planning permission is granted, that it be subject to the exclusion of the important features of the LCW site so that this important part of Lewis history remains. The applicant suggests that other sites for peat translocation could be found.</p> <p>The reason for lodging this objection is that for the past 50 years I have been investigating the history of the LCW and am well acquainted with the site. In 2006 the history of the LCW formed part of the BBC TV 'Coast' series, in 2016 the Island Book Trust published 'An Enormous Reckless Blunder' relating the history of the LCW and in 2021, An Lanntair Gallery in Stornoway commissioned a half-hour video on the story of the LCW for their Utube channel. It is of interest to locals and tourists alike.</p>
414 OBJ	<p>I strongly object to this development and urge the planners to reject it outright. Please consider smaller projects and guarantee local benefits and jobs. Sustainability is the current buzzword. Make smaller sustainable projects. It is clear that the carbon released in the manufacture, transportation and construction of this project will never be offset.</p> <p>Ever.</p> <p>Think green, properly.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
415 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Prostitution of the islands land and people with no community or environmental gain!</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
416 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this</p>

	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am opposed to the HVDC converter station, Stornoway, due the environmental impact it will have on the peatland and wildlife; and of equal importance the negative social impact with the noise and light pollution. Please help us to keep our idyllic island, that we have chosen to live and work in, and raise our children in. Please stop this industrial activity and keep our island for our future generations!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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417 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I believe these proposed windfarms will not ultimately be of benefit to islanders, either with jobs or receiving any remuneration towards high costs of electricity, therefore a massive substation on the island should not go ahead.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact • Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. • <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity • Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. • <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. • <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. • <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
418 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the</p>

	<p>basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This has no benefit to the islands, we have to endure this desecration of our environment and the electricity bills are higher than they have ever been. Share holders get richer and the people living with there greed get poorer.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
419 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station

	<p>approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As a Staff Nurse working in Stornoway I and have many concerns on all aspects of this plan, the impact the influx of workforce will have on our healthcare services and amenities worry me the most.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is</li> </ul>
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	<p>made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
420 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. When questioned about this in a public meeting, it was clear that the planners have not given suitable consideration to mitigating detrimental impacts.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Island roads are already under extreme strain from the increase in tourism; before additional loads can be added, the already strained road infrastructure will need repairing and improving.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of the Impact of the Construction phase: If construction is to go ahead, it will result in a massive increase in demand for local services, including housing, health facilities, policing, pubs and entertainment providers, groceries, travel routes etc. Many of these are already at capacity. A comprehensive impact assessment along with</li> </ul>

	<p>suggestions how to address these issues is required to avoid locals being displaced from lifeline, and other, services. Further comments I am not principally opposed to this development and am generally a supporter of renewable energy and see the benefits this could bring to the island. However, the process of informing and consulting communities which are likely to be significantly impacted should these developments go ahead has been poorly handled, leading to a sense that this is being imposed on us by outside powers that stand to gain (energy companies, local and national government, community trusts), rather than something islanders feel ownership of and want to be a part of. Before progressing plans any further, further engagement should be undertaken to ensure that affected communities (including individuals, not just trusts) really understand the benefits and risks and feel their thoughts have been given due consideration. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
421 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>No one asked for this except for CORPORATIONS.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate</li> </ul>

	<p>Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
422 OBJ	<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 <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</b></p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul>

#### **b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife**

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will **disturb nesting and breeding patterns**, affecting bird species such as:

- **Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**
- **Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**
- **Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)**

The UK **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to **safeguard biodiversity**—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### **2. Severe Impact on Amenity**

#### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.
- **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.

#### **b) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an **industrial structure**, entirely **out of character** with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of **natural screening**, the facility will be **highly visible** from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The **cumulative impact** of the converter station **plus associated wind farms and infrastructure** will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

#### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a **major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic**, which will:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that <b>“cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact</b></p>
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	<p><b>Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>• <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>• <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>• <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>• <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</li> </ul>
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423 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will</li> </ul>
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	<p>lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
424	<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,</p>

	<p>and major infrastructure concerns. 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>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part</p>
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	<p>of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion: This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected based on: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant residential amenity loss due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
425 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Scotland does not require further development with this HVDC Converter Station which will provide the potential for even more wind farms which are overwhelming the natural Environment.</p> <p>The environmental damage caused by this industrialisation negates any steps taken towards saving the planet.</p> <p>In addition to the visual and auditory impact of the Converter Station, the cumulative impact from so many developments has a detrimental effect on the health and well-being of residents in the community.</p> <p>Destroying the Scottish Environment and the lives of local people with the aim to meet the Scottish and Westminster’s Net Zero targets is counter productive.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical</li> </ul>

	<p>global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
426 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am objecting on the grounds of this being a massive development which would have devastating consequences on the island we grew up in and call home.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
427 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon</li> </ul>

	<p>release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
428 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I object to this planning application as there has not been enough involvement with the local community. The application does not consider any alternative solutions. The environmental impact has not been fully considered or explained to the local residents of the island. What are the job opportunities, financial rewards for the community and long term benefits to individual residents. There are no details of any real benefits for the local community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon</p>

	<p>sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
429 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p>



	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects.</p> <p>A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
430 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I feel that this has been done without any communication with the residents of the Westside of Lewis who are affected by this development.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p>

	<p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p>
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431 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045</p>
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	<p>and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p>
	<p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>b) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p>
	<p><b>3 Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>b) <b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) <b>Strain on local services:</b> emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p>
	<p><b>4 Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</b></p> <p>b) <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) — 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This</p>

	<p>is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning permission.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject the application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
432 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of</p>

	<p>industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li><li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045</li></ul> <p>a) <b>Disruption to protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)</b></li><li>• <b>Merlin (Falco columbarius)</b></li><li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)</b></li></ul> <p>The <b>UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Sever Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>a) <b>Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents</b>.</li><li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li></ul>
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**a) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an **industrial structure**, entirely **out of character** with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of **natural screening**, the facility will be **highly visible** from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The **cumulative impact** of the converter station **plus associated wind farms and infrastructure** will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

**3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

**a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks**

The construction phase will result in a **major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic**, which will:

- **Damage rural roads**, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- **Increase the risk of accidents** for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users
- **Cause congestion** on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway

There is **no clear mitigation strategy** for these impacts, making the proposal **irresponsible and unviable**.

**a) Strain on Local Services**

- **Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems** may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The **Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project**, yet there has been **no clear assessment** of how local services will be affected.

**4. Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application **fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan** for this area. The converter station is only one part of a **wider network** of developments including:

- **Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height**
- **Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms**
- **Multiple onshore windfarm substations**
- **Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis**

Each project is being considered **individually**, which **artificially reduces** their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘**salami slicing**’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to **avoid proper scrutiny**.

This approach **contradicts both national and local planning policies**,

	<p>including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>a) <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against this project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected on the basis of</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption of wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist of a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
433 OBJ	<p>I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM regarding the proposed HVDC Converter Station and associated infrastructure at Armish, near Stornoway.</p> <p>As a local business owner living near Stornoway, I am deeply concerned about the environmental impact this project will have on our already fragile island ecosystem. The area around Amish and the Creed River supports a diverse range of wildlife and sensitive habitats. Large-scale</p>

	<p>construction involving peat removal and concrete works in such close proximity to mature woodlands and salmon-rich rivers risks damaging these natural assets beyond repair.</p> <p>Equally alarming is the lack of appropriate infrastructure to support a project of this magnitude. The main road into Stornoway is already under strain, and I travel it daily for work. The addition of hundreds of heavy vehicles, construction machinery, and eventually the daily commute of a large transient workforce will severely affect traffic flow, safety, and access.</p> <p>I also have serious concerns about the proposed influx of hundreds of workers required for this and associated projects. Our accommodation infrastructure is limited. We already face challenges with ferry capacity and unreliable connectivity to and from the mainland-how will these additional pressures be managed? Local services, already stretched, will be further burdened. This creates a ripple effect that will impact residents, businesses, and the tourism industry.</p> <p>Tourism is one of the few sustainable industries in the Western Isles. An industrial-scale development at the gateway to Stornoway sends entirely the wrong message to visitors and undermines the authenticity of our island brand.</p> <p>The proposal offers little demonstrable benefit to the local population. Instead, it risks permanently altering the character of our town, endangering the environment, and stretching our already fragile infrastructure to breaking point.</p> <p>I strongly urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and preserve the health, safety, identity, and sustainability of our island community.</p>
434 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to</b></p>



	<p><b>the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of Peatlands</b>  Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045</li> </ul> <p>a) <b>Disruption to protected Wildlife</b>  The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</b></li> <li>• <b>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</b></li> <li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</b></li> </ul> <p>The <b>UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Sever Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>a) <b>Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents</b>.</li> <li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p>a) <b>Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>• Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users</li> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>a) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘<b>salami slicing</b>’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major</li> </ul>
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	<p>infrastructure projects.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>a) <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against this project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected on the basis of</b>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption of wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist of a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
435 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM - the proposed Electricity Transmission Hub comprising a HVDC Converter Station, substations, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), and associated infrastructure at Arnish, near Stornoway.</p> <p>This development poses a profound and irreversible threat to the environment, the health and safety of local residents, the character of the landscape, and the long-term future of our community here in the Western Isles.</p> <p>Environmental Impact:</p> <p>The planned removal of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of peat-a</p>

	<p>globally significant carbon sink-will release vast amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, directly undermining climate targets. The development also lies near the Creed River and Lews Castle Grounds, which contain the only mature woodland in the Outer Hebrides and support a rich and delicate ecosystem. Runoff from construction poses a serious risk to water quality and biodiversity in these protected areas.</p> <p>This is not just any landscape. This is one of the last true wildernesses in the UK-a place of rare, unspoiled natural beauty that must be protected.</p> <p>Visual and Landscape Impact:</p> <p>The converter station will be an enormous and intrusive industrial presence. As a resident of Lower Sandwick-one of the areas identified in the planning documents as suffering "severe adverse effects"-I will be directly and permanently affected.</p> <p>I have built a holiday let with full glass frontage to highlight the views and celebrate the historical and natural beauty of the area. That outlook will now be replaced by industrial buildings. My personal investment, and the wider value of the area as a visitor destination, will be severely undermined.</p> <p>Impact on Tourism and Infrastructure:</p> <p>The Western Isles rely heavily on tourism. This development-alongside the already expanded deepwater port and several planned wind farms-will drastically alter the experience of visitors. The first impression on arrival by ferry into Stornoway will be of industrial structures, not the natural and cultural beauty that makes this place unique.</p> <p>Our local infrastructure is not equipped for the scale of development proposed. The strain from construction traffic, worker accommodation, and pressure on public services will be overwhelming, especially when multiple industrial projects are undertaken at once.</p> <p>Health and Safety Risks:</p> <p>The risk of fire from large-scale battery storage systems is real and deeply concerning. The Western Isles simply do not have the fire service capacity to respond effectively to such incidents.</p> <p>A fire at this site could easily spread across the surrounding moorland, through the Lews Castle Grounds, and into Stornoway itself-posing a serious threat to lives, homes, and the environment. Approving this without a robust safety strategy in place would be negligent.</p> <p>Community Impact and Depopulation:</p> <p>As a highly specialised service-leading nurse, I am now seriously</p>
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	<p>considering leaving the island. The psychological and physical toll of living in an increasingly industrialised environment, with unknown health risks and a declining quality of life, is not something I am willing to endure.</p> <p>This is not just about me-it is about the younger generation, who will see no reason to stay if the unique character of our island is lost.</p> <p>Cumulative Impact and “Salami Slicing”:</p> <p>What is most concerning is the clear pattern of "salami slicing" that is occurring. This application only refers to the SSEN converter station, but it is well known that additional battery storage facilities will be required for each of the turbine farms planned for the area. These will likely be built alongside the converter station, compounding the environmental, visual, and community impact.</p> <p>By presenting each project individually, the full scale of industrialisation is being concealed. The historic landscape and protected ecological areas surrounding Arnish and the Castle Grounds will be overwhelmed if this pattern is allowed to continue.</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>This development brings unclear local benefit but comes at an overwhelming cost to our landscape, health, safety, economy, and future. I respectfully urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and to protect the outer Hebrides from irreversible harm.</p>
436 OBJ	<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 Macauley Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p> <p>a) <b>Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required</p>

	<p>for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li><li>• The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045</li></ul> <p><b>a) Disruption to protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Golden Eagle (Aquila chrysaetos)</b></li><li>• <b>Merlin (Falco columbarius)</b></li><li>• <b>Red-throated Diver (Gavia stellata)</b></li></ul> <p>The <b>UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Sever Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents</b>.</li><li>• <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li></ul> <p><b>a) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li><li>• Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li><li>• The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li></ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p>
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	<p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>• <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users</li> <li>• <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway</li> </ul> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>a) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘<b>salami slicing</b>’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>a) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and</p>
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	<p>its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined impact</b> of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against this project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected on the basis of:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption of wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist of a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
437 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as</li> </ol>



	<p>critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045</p> <p>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>b) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3 Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>b) <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) — 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore</p>
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	<p>windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of “salami slicing”, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge the 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 of this objection.</p>
438 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; It’ll have a negative impact on the rural environment and is promoting</p>

	<p>the industrialisation of our island to no benefit for ourselves.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p>
439 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this</p>

	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This plan to destroy an unspoilt environment should not happen.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
440 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this</p>

	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I was born and brought up on the West side of Lewis. I am 85 years of age but have, in the past always supported things that I believe have been of benefit to our community. I am concerned that this will have a negative impact on our island and no long standing benefit to our local economy and while none of this will directly impact on me I am deeply concerned re impact on our island and community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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441 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I live on the Isle of Lewis and love it! Please do not destroy the beauty and the unique nature of this island with the proposed industrialisation (which will come among other projects with this building)!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure</p>
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	while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p><b>Additional comments:</b></p> <p><b>I do not wish to see our beautiful island turned into an industrial wasteland. I believe the majority of islanders feel the same, and that if you actually held a vote then this would be clear.</b></p>
444 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This station should never be so close to the main township and amenities on the island. Cost cannot be a defensible consideration in this context.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

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450 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I object to this as stated below and also disturbed at the impact this development will have on our Island. Apart from destroying the landscapes and scenery the detrimental effect of such a large development to sea life will have disastrous consequences.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact    Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.    Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity    Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.    Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns    Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.    Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore</p>

	substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments
451 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. It is of great concern to me that benefits to the local community are not guaranteed, while those far removed from the island are sure to benefit greatly from this converter station. Some of my concerns include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
452 OBJ	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,



	<p>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>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>
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	<p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and</li> </ol>
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	<p>biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
453 OBJ	<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>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>

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	<p>global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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456 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am from the Isle of Lewis, my parents and relatives live there and I visit often, this is of extremely high importance to all who love and visit this beautiful island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated</li> </ul>

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	<p>and international climate targets. ● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. <b>Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. <b>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. <b>Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. <b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
458 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I’ve visited the Hebrides and work in tourism. I cannot believe construction of this kind will take place there. It is utterly criminal to destroy the beauty of the islands in Scotland. If this renewable project goes ahead it will be devastating to the tourism industry never mind the way of life for the people who live there. I want to ensure every politician in Scotland understands they have a hand in this ludicrous proposal if it goes ahead. And they will hold the heads in shame. Below are the key issues locals are extremely concerned about:</p> <p>1. <b>Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
459 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This project does not belong within such close proximity to Stornoway Town. It will adversely affect all issues mentioned here, as well as volumes of traffic, and tourism which is so important to the island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2.</li> </ul>

	<p>Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
460 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to this as a needless desecration of Scottish coastal water for no benefit. There is no need for this frenzied march to net zero. Scotland already produces sufficient energy and the move to renewables is happening slowly - this is just part of a power grab (literally) by corporate giants. You are selling Scotland to foreign owners bit by bit. Absolute lies in your planning proposals.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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461	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul>

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462 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> <li><b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> the proposed site is home to Red List bird species – species of high conservation concern –</li> </ol>

	<p>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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p>
	<p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>a. <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b. <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p>
	<p><b>3 Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>a. <b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b. <b>Strain on local services:</b> emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p>
	<p><b>4 Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</b></p> <p>a. <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the</p>

	<p>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b. <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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463 OBJ	<p>I write in reference to the above planning application. We have significant concerns over the cumulative impacts of development that this proposal will enable and how this has been assessed by the Applicant. In choosing this location, we believe that the likely impacts of the connections to the hub should be considered along with the development itself. It is also extremely disappointing to see that less</p>
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	<p>than 1 year of bird surveys have been carried out to inform the EIA. The Applicant proposes further bird surveys to be carried out and data to be submitted at some unspecified time. It is therefore not possible to consider all the relevant information or assess the likely impacts at this stage. In addition, there is a lack of clarity over proposed mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures. Taking all this into consideration, RSPB Scotland objects to the proposal due to insufficient information and assessment of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment. We will reconsider our position in light of any further information submitted. Further detail is provided in Annex 1 of this letter</p> <p>Annex 1 - 25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub RSPB Comment Surveys and assessment The EIA Report (Section 8.10.4) states that birds surveys are ongoing, with some carried out in February 2025 (and not detailed in the EIA) and moorland breeding bird surveys still to be carried out for the southern section of the site in summer 2025. The Applicant states they intend to submit this as Supplementary Environmental Information (SEI). Therefore, the current application does not include sufficient information to allow an assessment of environmental impacts. Without seeing this SEI we are unable to comment on it and understand likely impacts. Given there are potential adverse impacts on bird species, we object due to insufficient information and assessment of impacts for ornithology.</p> <p>Cumulative and impacts Section 8.2.4 of the EIAR outlines the approach the Applicant has taken to cumulative assessment. It states they have considered under construction and consented developments and those for which consent has been applied. It is not clear whether operational development has been included; section 8.2.4 of the EIAR states that they are, but section 8.3.7-8.3.8 of Appendix 8.1 suggests they were not. NatureScot guidance on cumulative assessments for onshore wind<sup>1</sup> is relevant, with the same principles applying to other development. It clearly states that, ‘Developments that are already operational, and those that are consented, and likely to be built should be considered first as the impacts arising from these (once mitigation has been factored in) are unavoidable’. Proposals within planning should then be factored in. The only developments included are in table 8.11 of the EIAR are: • Stornoway Windfarm (the site boundary of which overlaps the proposed Site) • Harris – Stornoway 132kV OHL Replacement (for which the Applicant states there is no potential for cumulative effects with the proposed development) • Creed Quarry Extension (for which the Applicant states there is no information was available) • Stornoway Deep Water South project.</p> <p>Arnish Road Upgrade is listed elsewhere in the EIA as cumulative development, eg Table 4.3. but has not been included for ornithology section in Table 8.11. This should be clarified and updated as necessary. It is our opinion that this approach falls far short of what is reasonably foreseeable. Given the identified impacts on species there are a number of other developments that should be included. These include three other on-shore windfarms (Uisenis, Grimshader and Heastabhal) and offshore windfarm Spiorad na Mara. In addition, the stated purpose of the hub is to strengthen the local transmission</p>
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	<p>network and support new onshore and offshore connections. The Application acknowledges that there will be connections to the site, with Stornoway substation, cable connection to Arnish point and number of connections to proposed renewable energy developments. However, the cumulative impacts of these proposals which would be facilitated by the development have not been taken into account. To disregard infrastructure which is the stated reason why the development is needed, and which will affect the route and location of such infrastructure does not consider the full impacts of the development. An updated cumulative/in combination assessment should be carried out which includes other relevant developments, and an assessment made of the likely impacts of the connections to the Hub that the Applicant reasonably anticipates. Lewis Peatlands Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Although a number of qualifying features of the Lewis Peatlands SPA were recorded in the area, no significant effects on the species or the SPA are anticipated by the EIAR. However, as stated above, the cumulative impact of the overhead lines and other connections to the Proposed Development have not been considered in the cumulative assessment. Hen Harriers</p> <p>The Applicant notes that Hen Harrier ‘in the process of colonising Lewis’ (8.7.17) with three nests within the disturbance distance (750m) of the Site boundary. Para 7.13 states small size of development will result in minimal displacement and no impact on Hen Harrier. However, the EIAR states that moorland breeding bird surveys have not been carried out for the southern part of the site (as shown on Figure 8.2) where the majority of development is proposed, therefore a complete assessment of impacts has not been carried out and likely impacts cannot be fully assessed. The Applicant has stated that there are no potential cumulative operational effects included in this assessment. This is despite the predicted impacts from Stornoway Windfarms and the connection that would be made from that to the Proposed Hub. As stated above, we do not agree that the cumulative assessment is sufficient or implication for developments connecting to this site has been considered properly. In terms of the site selection process, the Applicant states that ornithological sensitives were considered and therefore they were ‘able to avoid these features as much as possible’ (8.8.2). RSPB Scotland met with the Developer in November 2023 and raised issues of potential impacts on birds and peatland and expressed our opinion that other options were likely to have less ornithological impacts. Therefore, it does seem possible that ornithological features could have been avoided to a greater degree. Notwithstanding this, without the requisite surveys it is not possible to fully understand the likely impacts on birds. During construction, pre-construction checks are proposed for bird species and the establishment of exclusion zones. Hen harrier nests have been found to be located within disturbance distance of the Site and moorland breeding bird surveys for the southern part of the site have not been carried out. If nests are confirmed during construction, then it is proposed that works within 750 m during the breeding season would require a ‘watching brief from an ornithologist’. It is not clear what measures would then be taken, for instance, what action would be</p>
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	<p>taken if disturbance was observed. Further detail is needed before determination to allow a conclusion on whether construction disturbance is likely to be significant, after mitigation. No cumulative operational assessment has been carried out for Hen Harrier. As stated above, as we do not agree with the approach taken to cumulative impacts. Corncrake 8.5.24 of the EIA report suggests that Corncrake are 'colonising' Lewis and Harris. This is not correct, Corncrake are not a coloniser. RSPB Scotland has some historical reports of corncrake from Arnish. However, no corncrake surveys were carried out. Given there is potential for Corncrake in the area, we believe that surveys should have been carried out. We recommend that at least 1 season of surveys should be carried out. Proposed Mitigation and compensation</p> <p>The Applicant states in the EIA (section 7.7.3 and schedule of mitigation page 14-4) that they propose to restore at least 24.4 ha of blanket bog, to compensate for the permanent loss of 2.44 ha of blanket bog. This would be in line with NatureScot guidance. An area where restoration is proposed appears to be shown within the redline site boundary. We note that this is detailed in Appendix 7.4: Outline Habitat Management Plan (oHMP, EIAR Volume 4). If permission is granted, the compensatory restoration should be secured by an appropriately worded condition. The duration of the HMP is not specified and the Applicant suggests that this should be confirmed in consultation with CnES. However, the development is proposed for 40 years and the HMP should be for at least the operational life of the development, especially given peatland restoration is a long-term undertaking. However, the figures in the oHMP and EIA appear to differ significantly from the figures set out in the Biodiversity Net Gain Report, as discussed below. Biodiversity Enhancement</p> <p>The Applicant has developed their own Biodiversity Net Gain toolkit to seek to comply with biodiversity enhancement requirements set out in NPF4. The Applicant has submitted a Biodiversity Net Gain Report as supporting information. This sets out that the development would result in the loss of 20.02ha of blanket bog, this is considered irreplaceable habitat, and enhancement of approximately 200.20ha of blanket bog is proposed to mitigate for this predicted loss. Although we welcome the extent of proposed restoration and agree with the application of a 1:10 ratio of loss to compensation, this differs significantly from the figures given in the EIAR. The BNG Report states 50.72h of restoration could be carried out onsite and 149.48 offsite. It is difficult to understand why the oHMP does not reflect the measures proposed onsite and detailed in the BNG Report. In terms of 'non-irreplaceable habitat', in addition to some onsite measures, offsite measures are identified as needed to endure a no-net loss and enhancement could be achieved. It is not clear where this would be delivered or if this can be secured, therefore it is not clear if biodiversity enhancement can be delivered for this development. The Applicant should update the Outline HMP to reflect the BNG Report and show on the plan where onsite measures are proposed and give further detail on whether offsite measures could reasonably be secured</p>
464 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station

	<p>approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We live across the bay from the proposed site of the converter station. This proposal will dramatically change our location for the worse, our dark skies, wildlife, environment, low traffic - all the things we treasure about living in this area and which we wish to preserve for our children. The scale of this project is utterly disproportionate and the cons far outweigh the pros both for the environment and for those who live in the vicinity. I believe the islands have their part to play in finding a solution to the climate crisis but I do not believe that this is it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA</li> </ul>
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	<p>must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
465 OBJ	<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. 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. Our beautiful island, heritage, wildlife and future generations deserve better than this. There are somethings you can't put a price on. Once it's gone it's gone.</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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. This contradicts: <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> </li> <li>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</li> </ul> <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. 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</li> </ul>

	<p>further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: • Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. • Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. • Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services • Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. • The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: • Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
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	<p>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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, and to the large populations of migratory birds (whooper swans, geese of several species, waders such as godwit, golden plover, curlew, green shank, etc.) which transit Lewis and Harris on their annual migrations to and from Greenland and Iceland. It should be noted that the proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations will lie across the migratory routes of almost the complete British populations of many of these species. Excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to permanent damage to vast areas of pristine peatlands, contradicting Scottish and British legal 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> </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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></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> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any</li> </ul>
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	<p>decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
467 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This wind turbine is a monstrosity and a complete eye sore. I don't believe it is a good idea to have it on the island.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



	<p>with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
468 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This proposal breaks my heart. I come from generations of proud islanders who have cared for this precious land over the centuries. I object to the idea that we are to be subjected to industrialisation of our most important asset- the peace and beauty and culture of our environment. How dare this size of industrialisation be foisted on the people and land? It is totally illogical that one of the last natural wildernesses in the UK is going to be destroyed in one fell swoop, no doubt with further developments to come. At the same time we are encouraged to welcome tens of thousands of visitors here in cruise ships. This will inevitably destroy their experience and is a terrible act of industrial vandalism.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
469 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station to the southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm. This objection is based on material planning considerations, including failure to properly consult with the affected community, inadequate consideration of cumulative impacts, failure to provide a comprehensive EIA, environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on</p>

local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.

#### **Failure to properly consult with the affected community**

The proposed HVDC Converter Station is part of a wider plan to use the Isle of Lewis to generate vast amounts of wind energy for export. The fact that there was no consultation on this plan before it was put in place contradicts PAN 3/2010 Community Engagement which states that 'Community Engagement must be meaningful and proportionate.' Community engagement on the wider plan has been absent, and engagement on the HVDC Converter Station has not been meaningful or proportionate to the scale of change proposed – consultations should have been held throughout the island, as the whole island will be affected.

The development contradicts National Planning Framework (NPF) 4 'Just transition' which states that 'We will empower people to shape their places and ensure the transition to net zero is fair and inclusive.' The failure to consult with the people of Lewis on the massive changes proposed for the island disempowers the Lewis people, as we have so often been disempowered by landlords and politicians pushing their favoured development schemes in past centuries.

#### **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact of Developments**

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including the Stornoway Windfarm, Druim Leathann Windfarm, Uisenis Windfarm, N4 (Sporad na Mara) Windfarm, Heastabhal Windfarm, Grimshader Windfarm, Talisk Windfarm and Havbredy Windfarm, with their associated substations and transmission infrastructure.

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies. NPF4 states that the cumulative impacts of developments must be fully addressed before determining large infrastructure projects. This has not happened - the people of Lewis have at no time been consulted on the larger plan to turn our island into a renewable energy powerhouse to feed the centres of population in the south.

The proposed development contradicts Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's

	<p>Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>Failure to provide a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must consider the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Part of the proposed development lies on the site of the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, established by TB Macaulay in the 1920s/30s. This was an experimental farm associated with the Macaulay Institute (now the Hutton Institute), where experiments in ‘improving’ peatland by dressing it with various additives were carried out. The EIA fails to assess the historic value of the site of the Macaulay Institute, and fails to address potential problems associated with spreading the ‘improved’ soil from the experimental farm on to ‘unimproved’ peatland. The EIA is incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p><b>Unacceptable environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the environment, particularly through:</p> <p><u>Destruction of Peatlands</u></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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 the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands, and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p><u>Disruption to Protected Wildlife</u></p>
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The proposed site is home to Red List bird species—species of high conservation concern that are experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as Hen Harrier, Golden Eagle, Merlin and Red-throated Diver.

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### **Severe Impact on Amenity**

#### Noise and Light Pollution

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. 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.

#### Visual Impact

The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### **Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

#### Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic. This will damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport, and increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. It will also cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

	<p><u>Strain on Local Services</u></p> <p>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems will struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The local fire service is not equipped to deal with major fires at industrial sites. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>The proposed development is grossly disproportionate and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</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 of this objection.</p>
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470 OBJ	<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>I am appalled at the consideration of the converter in Arnish and the effects this will have on our islands. The works will affect the biodiversity and our beautiful landscapes, which my family — and many others — have cherished for centuries. I have just returned home from the mainland to work, and always dreamed of returning to the unspoiled beauty of my home. (After being in the city for 10 years, I definitely don't consider the islands 'backwaters'!) Rather than progress, this will dramatically affect our scenery, wildlife, and natural habitats; it will add additional pressure on my generation for finding housing in an increasingly difficult market, and add unnecessary strain on systems which are already ill-equipped to deal with current pressures. It seems backwards on one hand to be encouraging tourism, and destroying the natural habitats people cherish most about the Outer Hebrides with the other.</p> <p>I am disgusted at the thought of our island being misappropriated for</p>
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	<p>the benefit of others, with minimal benefit for the local community. Writing this, I am not only speaking as one person in my generation, but for those who will come after me — for those whose island will also be changed irrevocably.</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. 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 The construction phase will</p>
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	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate</li> </ol>
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	<p>and biodiversity commitments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
471 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>My family has lived on this beautiful island for generations. This proposal goes against everything that we value here. People love coming for peace in a place of natural beauty, which is going to be destroyed by this proposed development. Future generations will be affected forever and will never know what we have. It is illogical to encourage tourism by pouring money into developing the deep water port etc then subject visitors and locals to this monstrous vision. Peatland, wildlife and humans will be deeply affected and as a proud islander I strongly object.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
472 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>I object strongly to this development. I cannot believe that this act of industrial vandalism is being seriously considered.</b></p> <p><b>I am a young islander who has lived here all my life and hope to spend the rest of my future here. Honestly, when I see the proposed plans, I am seriously rethinking about whether I can bear to live here. The contrast between what I love here and what will be in the future is stark. The scale of the proposed development is literally hellish and no doubt once it starts, industrial vandalism will continue into the future.</b></p>

***Islanders have already voted 'no' to previous plans for wind turbines here- what has happened to democracy??***

**I am very distressed about what is proposed-I trust that this plan which will irrevocably damage our precious island environment will not be approved.**

**1. Environmental Impact**

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.

- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

**2. Impact on Amenity**

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.

- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

**3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.

- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

**4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development**

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.

- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
473 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>I was brought up here as a proud Gael. I returned to the island after university to work here and always thought I would settle here for the rest of my life.</b></p> <p><b>I am appalled that the island now considered as an industrial wasteland which can be trampled over with massive destructive structures which will spoil our nature, peace and way of life for ever.</b></p> <p><b>If this goes ahead I will seriously consider moving elsewhere in Scotland.</b></p> <p><b>Future generations will see this as a turning point in destroying our culture. I strongly object to these awful plans.</b></p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul>

	<p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
474 OBJ	<p>I wish to formally object to the proposed substation at Arnish, both on a personal level and on behalf of my business Heather Isle Adventures. This development would destroy the unique nature of Lewis, will impact wildlife and tourism and negatively affect our way of life. 25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I want to oppose this industrialisation of Lewis on behalf of myself and my business, Heather Isle Adventures.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous</li> </ul>

	<p>low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. • Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
475 OBJ	<p>Planning Application Reference 25/00061/PPDM Part 1: Objection I write on behalf of Spiorad na Mara Limited (SnM) to object to the above named planning application (the Planning Application). SnM are developing an offshore wind farm located in an area approximately 5-13 kilometres off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis known as ‘Spiorad Na Mara’ (the SnM Project). With a potential generating capacity of around 900MW, the SnM Project could meet the average annual electricity needs of around 1.2 million Scottish homes and save more than 1.7 million tonnes of harmful CO2 emissions every year. By virtue of its nature and scale, the SnM Project is a ‘national development’ as ‘Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure’ under Annex B of National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). Date: 18 April 2025 Our Ref: 238770718.3 Page: 2 Further details of the SnM Project were originally set out within the Proposal of Application Notice submitted to Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (CnES) on 29 August 2024 (PAN Notice) and that was approved by CnES on 5 th September 2024. Following public consultation events being held in September and October 2024, and ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, SnM look forward to providing a further update on progress with its proposals to CnES shortly. The SnM Project must connect to the national grid. On the Isle of Lewis, that necessitates connecting to new onshore transmission infrastructure that is being promoted by Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (with the trading name Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks Transmission (SSEN-T) (as the transmission network operator for the north of Scotland and Western Isles under the Electricity Act 1989). SnM are plainly supportive of the principle of new onshore transmission infrastructure on the Isle of Lewis. However that support cannot extend to the</p>

	<p>proposals as are currently envisaged in the Planning Application. In particular, contrary to extensive discussions and disclosure of information between the parties, and previous assurances around co-existence, SSEN-T is now proposing to locate non-operational parts of the Proposed Development on areas of land that have long been identified by SnM for critical operational components of the SnM Project comprising: a) a grid substation (the SnM Substation) to connect to the SSEN-T converter station (the SSEN-T Converter Station); and b) the grid connection to the SnM Substation (the SnM Grid Connection). Put simply, as a consequence of SSEN-T's decision to bypass a collaborative solution, the proposals as currently envisaged sterilise the opportunity for colocation of project infrastructure. The consequences are potentially severe. For SnM, delay, cost and uncertainty for the SnM Project: a cornerstone generation project that underpins the need case for the transmission proposals in the Planning Application. For the local community and other interested parties, the very real risk of more disruption over both an extended period and geographic extent – with SSEN-T's current approach forcing SnM to contemplate alternative sites on the island with the potential for new and potentially more severe environmental impacts which would be avoided or further minimised by colocation. SnM will always take the steps that it reasonably can to mitigate those impacts. However the reality is that there are impacts that could potentially arise that would have been avoided or further minimised by successful co-location. Taken together, SnM does not consider that the proposals as currently envisaged can be reconciled with relevant planning policy. They do not constitute sustainable development. They do not allow for an integrated design solution that mitigates environmental impacts. And they do not allow potential opportunities to be realised for maximising the public benefits of major new energy infrastructure on the Isle of Lewis. That outcome (should it unfold) would be deeply unsatisfactory. SSEN-T has a duty to work with SnM (and CnES and all other stakeholders) to unlock a solution. SnM wish to be very clear: that solution exists. Changes to the Proposed Development could reasonably be made that would both allow for co-location with the SnM Project and facilitate the grant of the Planning Application. The remaining parts of this letter of objection comprise: At Part 2, we set out details of the areas of 'overlap' between the two projects; At Part 3, we provide a record of the discussions held between SnM and SSEN-T to date; At Part 4, we set out our grounds of objection to the proposals as envisaged in the Planning Application; At Part 5, we set out the steps that SnM expect SSEN-T to take (and respectfully that SnM consider CnES must insist upon) in order to address its aforementioned concerns and potentially facilitate the positive determination of the Planning Application. Part 2: Overlap Areas SnM refer to the plan at Appendix A which shows the areas of overlap between the Proposed Development and the areas of land identified for the SnM Project. This comprises of the following two areas: A) Arnish Moor Overlap Area: SnM refer to the 'Arnish Moor' site that is located just north of Loch Mor na Cairteach and Loch Beag na Cairteach, as shown on Figure 1.1 (Site Location) submitted with the</p>
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	<p>Application (see Appendix B) (the Arnish Moor Site). The area to the south of the Arnish Moor Site was identified by SnM as within the area of search for the SnM Substation to connect to the SSEN-T Converter Station. Figure 2.1 (Proposed Development) submitted with the Planning Application (see Appendix C) shows that this area has now been identified by SSEN-T for a borrow pit, a temporary access track and supporting works forming part of the Proposed Development. B) Creed North Overlap Area: SnM refer to the 'Creed North' site as shown on Figure 1.1 (Site Location) submitted with the Application (see Appendix B) (the Creed North Site). This area has already been identified by SnM as within the area of search for a cable corridor for the onshore export cables from the selected landfall location to connect into the SnM Substation. Figure 2.1 (Proposed Development) submitted with the Application (see Appendix C) shows that this area has now been identified by SSEN-T for project specific peatland restoration works, temporary access tracks and supporting works forming part of the Proposed Development. We refer to development on the Overlap Areas (collectively comprising peatland restoration works, a borrow pit, temporary access tracks and associated works) as the Non-Operational Development. In reading the remainder of this letter, it must be borne in mind that it is these works (the Non-Operational Development rather than the current siting of the SSEN-T Converter Station or supporting operational infrastructure) that have the potential to frustrate the successful co-location of the SnM Substation, and proximate sections of the SnM Grid Connection. Part 3: Discussions between SnM and SSEN-T It has been well known to SSEN-T, for in excess of two years, that the delivery of the SnM Project requires the SnM Substation to be located near to the SSEN-T Converter Station. That is an operational necessity in order to increase the voltage from the onshore export cables forming part of the SnM Project to a level that can be accepted by SSEN-T for onward transmission to the landfall location of the export cables forming part of the 'Link Project' at Arnish Point. The 'Link Project' serves to connect existing and future renewable wind generation projects from the Western Isles (via subsea cabling) to mainland Scotland and the UK national grid. Similarly, SSEN-T have been aware since at least September 2023 that the SnM Project had identified landfall locations between Arnol and Baile an Truiseil (on the west side of the Isle of Lewis where the wind farm array is located in adjacent waters) for its offshore export cables, and that connection from this location to the SnM Substation near the SSEN-T Converter Station, within the vicinity of Arnish Point, would necessitate safeguarding an onshore export cable connection corridor. Since early 2023, the parties have therefore been working together to identify a mutually acceptable location and layout for their respective infrastructure in order to ensure project co-existence, mitigate environmental impacts including amenity impacts on local communities, and to unlock opportunities for major public benefits including biodiversity enhancement (all as strongly supported by national policy and with a view to responding to feedback from various statutory consultees and other stakeholders). This engagement has included (amongst other activities) regular virtual and in person</p>
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	<p>meetings between project teams, sharing of information on respective project infrastructure and land requirements as well as consenting and construction programmes, seeking agreement on drafting terms of reference for future engagement and cooperation between the parties (and other developers &amp; stakeholders) including discussion on entering into a memorandum of understanding for a holistic peatland management plan, and proposals for SnM and SSEN-T to enter into an interface agreement to ensure effective cooperation and delivery of the parties respective projects. The record of engagement between the parties is extensive and does not bear repeating in full for the purposes of this letter. However, in order to understand SnM's concerns, it is important to provide context to the site selection and design process to date, and an overview of related engagement between the parties:</p> <p>a) SSEN-T were first informed by SnM of proposals for the SnM Substation to be located at the southern section of the Arnish Moor Site in early 2023. SnM's proposals were set out in its Scoping Report that was submitted to the Marine Directorate – Licensing and Operations Team (MD-LOT) on 27th September 2023 (the Scoping Report) and that was the subject of consultation with CnES and SSEN-T. The Scoping Report specifically identified the location to the south of the Arnish Moor Site as an 'area of search' for the SnM Substation. The plan submitted with the Scoping Report is enclosed at Appendix D. b) By early 2023 SSEN-T were also aware of SnM's proposals for the onshore grid connection route to deviate from the A857 to the west of Stornoway in order to pass through the Creed North Site. At this stage, it was envisaged that SSEN-T would locate the SSEN-T Converter Station at a location to the south east (closer to Arnish Point). c) By March 2024, SnM were made aware of SSEN-T's interest in the Arnish Moor Site and Creed North Site. However this was supported by proposals for sharing of data to minimise programme delays and assurances from Date: 18 April 2025 Our Ref: 238770718.3 Page: 6 SSEN-T that it was actively taking SnM's permanent footprint into consideration when selecting its final site location. d) By July 2024, SSEN-T had published a press release confirming that it was proposing to locate the SSEN-T Converter Station at the Arnish Moor Site and utilise the Creed North Site for peatland management. However discussions continued on the basis that SSEN-T would: a) not require the Arnish Moor Overlap Area for the transmission infrastructure; and b) not sterilise all of the Creed North Site, and that SSEN-T would work with SnM to accommodate the onshore cable route for the SnM Project (i.e. effectively safeguard the Creed North Site Overlap Area). e) By late August 2024, and drawing on its engagement to date with SSEN-T, and having waited on details of SSEN-T's preferred site location being in the public domain, SnM submitted the PAN Notice which identified the Arnish Moor Overlap Area as an area of search for the SnM Substation. The onshore boundaries of the SnM Project were presented within the PAN Notice, and shown at public consultation events in September and October 2024 and specifically provided to SSEN-T on 2nd October 2024. The PAN Notice included an 'onshore transmission works PAN boundary' that encompassed some of the Arnish Moor Site and Creed North Site. The plan submitted with the</p>
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	<p>Scoping Report is enclosed at Appendix E. f) By October 2024, discussions were held between the parties regarding review of SSEN-T's land requirements and the need for coordination with SnM. SnM also provided details of the footprint that it would require for the SnM Substation. Furthermore, discussions were held on a collective solution being agreed with SEPA (and other stakeholders as needed) for peatland restoration and formalising those arrangements in a Memorandum of Understanding. Drawing this together, SnM has been clear in identifying the need for the Overlap Areas for the SnM Project since it commenced discussions with SSEN-T in 2023, and as evidenced in discussions that have followed since, and as more fully set out in both the Scoping Report submitted in August 2023 and the PAN Notice submitted in August 2024. Furthermore, as evidenced above, SnM have a record of engagement throughout this period which demonstrates that SSEN-T recognised the need for project co-existence, and which SnM (in recognising the need for an integrated design solution) has relied upon in developing and consulting on its proposals for the SnM Project. Since the submission of the SSEN-T Planning Application, SnM wishes to record that it has contacted SSEN-T and made further efforts to discuss scheme amendments that would facilitate co-location. Specifically SnM has reiterated again that the barrier to co-location is the Non-Operational Development elements of SSEN-T proposals, where there is significant opportunity for the parties to collaborate on a solution that: A) avoids the Overlap Areas, or B) at the very least facilitates the siting of the Non-Operational Development on the Creed North Overlap Area in order to: i) vacate the Arnish Moor Overlap Area for the SnM Substation and adjacent cables forming part of the SnM Grid Connection; and ii) safeguards a route through the Creed North Overlap Area for the cables forming part of the SnM Grid Connection to traverse south to the SnM Substation at the Arnish Moor Overlap Area. Whilst there has been some limited engagement with SSEN-T, nothing at all has been provided that meaningfully engages with the aforementioned proposals or that makes any attempt to explain why they cannot be delivered.</p> <p>Part 4: Grounds of Objection</p> <p>The decision to utilise the Overlap Areas for the Proposed Development undermines a fundamental objective in the longstanding discussions between the parties to identify an integrated development solution that allows much needed generation and transmission infrastructure to be delivered in a way that: a) best serves the environment (including the local communities on the Isle of Lewis); and b) maximises the prospect of the public benefits of the proposals being delivered as soon as possible. As set out at paragraph 1.4 of the Applicant's Planning Statement: The Pathway to 2030 Holistic Network Design states that an integrated design for the electricity transmission network is needed to connect the new, large-scale renewable sources of energy. It is crucial that this investment, including the Proposed Development, is delivered in full along with the other elements of the transmission system reinforcement required. Failing to progress any part of this holistic design will lead to 2030 targets being missed. The core objective of SSEN-T's proposals is to facilitate the connection of low carbon electricity generation projects to the national grid. By departing from</p>
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	<p>an integrated design solution, and forcing SnM to reconsider scheme proposals (and Date: 18 April 2025 Our Ref: 238770718.3 Page: 8 incur associated delays) the Proposed Development as currently envisaged risks undermining that objective. For the foregoing reasons, a failure to pursue an integrated design solution also serves to undermine the 'need' for "Strategic Renewable Electricity Generation and Transmission Infrastructure" where island transmission connections are identified as necessary to facilitate significant renewable energy - not increase the risk of costs and delay, create uncertainty over aspects of project delivery and expose local communities to the risk of otherwise avoidable environmental effects. It is also contrary to the application of the six spatial principles that underpin NPF4 (part of the statutory development plan for the determination of planning applications by CnES) which must be applied in a way that avoids "...compromise or trade-offs between environmental, social and economic objectives" and where "an integrated strategy [is required] to bring together cross-cutting priorities and achieve sustainable development". SnM also have concerns that a failure to agree an integrated design solution will lead to environmental effects that could have been avoided, minimised, restored or offset in accordance with the NPF4 mitigation hierarchy. It is well established that the SnM Substation and SnM Grid Connection must come forward at a location near (and ultimately connect into) the Proposed Development. It is also clear that the projects, as currently proposed, encompass similar construction programmes. In light of these factors, it must be incumbent on SSEN-T to fully explore a design solution that facilitates the phased delivery of all project infrastructure. Without this, it is likely that more land will be required for the projects and more time will be required in order for them to be constructed. The consequence is an increased risk of environmental impacts, including transportation and residential amenity impacts. Conversely, by working towards a streamlined development solution, there is far greater scope for mitigating the cumulative impacts of the projects through embedded design measures (such as through integrated access solutions and construction environmental management measures). There is also far greater scope for fully realising holistic (and ultimately more effective) environmental mitigation and enhancement measures. This is particularly apparent with respect to peatland management proposals where there has been an express request for collaboration between SSEN-T and project developers from CnES and the Major Development Forum in order to maximise these opportunities. This approach is strongly supported by NPF4 Policy 3(d) which states that "Any potential adverse impacts, including cumulative impacts, of development proposals Date: 18 April 2025 Our Ref: 238770718.3 Page: 9 on biodiversity, nature networks and the natural environment will be minimised through careful planning and design." The proposals to include non-operational development in the Overlap Areas also raises some concern as to whether SSEN-T has effectively discharged its duty to meaningfully take feedback into account in accordance with its statutory duties. The absence of reaching a mutually acceptable design solution is also at odds with consistent feedback that has been</p>
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	<p>received from CnES and other stakeholders (including local communities) who have emphasised the need for SSEN-T and developers of electricity generation to work in a collaborative way in order to minimise environmental effects. SnM therefore also has concerns regarding compliance with ‘cross-cutting outcome and policy links’ in NPF4 which require that “...engagement, undertaken in line with statutory requirements, should be early, collaborative, meaningful and proportionate. Support or concern expressed on matters material to planning must be given careful consideration in the determination of development proposals.” Reflecting on the record of engagement between the parties over in excess of two years, and the level of information provided by SnM as to its proposals and programme, SnM must also record its concerns that SSEN-T have disregarded the SnM Project from any meaningful cumulative assessment in the EIAR; citing that there is “...not sufficient design detail for these proposed projects for them to be considered” (paragraph 4.4.7 of the EIA Report). Whilst it may be common for developers to scope out pre-application proposals from cumulative assessment, it is self-evident that SSEN-T is in a unique position as transmission licence holder (with the benefit of related project data) to carry out a meaningful cumulative impact assessment with the SnM Project. For example, SSEN-T were fully aware of the locational necessity for the SnM Substation and adjacent SnM Grid Connection to be sited near the SSEN-T Converter Station. It is also clear that SSEN-T had received reliable information from SnM (over an extended period) on not only the preferred location of the onshore elements of the SnM Project but also details including the size of the buildings that would comprise the SnM Substation. In the context of the need for precautionary assessment under the Town and Country (EIA) (Scotland Regulations 2017 (the EIA Regulations), the exclusion of the SnM Project from SSEN-T’s cumulative assessment must be a serious omission. It must also follow that there is uncertainty over whether CnES will be in a position (as it must be under the EIA Regulations) to reach a valid “reasoned conclusion” on the proposals.</p> <p>Date: 18 April 2025 Our Ref: 238770718.3 Page: 10</p> <p>The reason why a robust cumulative assessment matters must be properly understood: this is the vehicle for assessing the dual impacts of the projects and in turn identifying adequate mitigation solutions. The starting point must be mitigation by design (or “embedded mitigation”). Due to omitting to carry out a robust cumulative assessment in the EIA Report, and in turn not reporting on the additional environmental of sterilising co-location, there is no evidence base to demonstrate whether mitigation by design (including an evaluation of re-siting the Non-Operational Development) has in fact been meaningfully considered by SSEN-T. Furthermore, whilst it is correct that SnM will be obliged to consider the cumulative impact of the Proposed Development as part of its own forthcoming planning application, the reality is that opportunities for mitigation will be narrower – with the prior submission of the Planning Application having the effect of ‘fixing’ the mitigation solutions that SSEN-T can offer (regardless of the conclusions of the cumulative assessment in SnM’s own assessment).</p> <p>Part 5: Conclusions</p> <p>In the context of the aforementioned legal, policy and environmental implications,</p>
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	<p>including the consequences for the local community of piecemeal delivery of major energy infrastructure, it must be incumbent on SSEN-T to work with SnM to identify a solution. It bears repeating: a solution exists. The extent of the Overlap Areas with the SnM Project are limited relative to the overall extent of the development proposal, with the nature of the works on the Overlap Areas comprising the Non-Operational Development. Those factors only serve to strengthen the case for proportionate siting and design changes that safeguard the opportunity for co-location: changes that would appear to be relatively 'self-contained' and capable of being implemented without compromising SSEN-T's wider proposals in the Planning Application, or supporting information that has been submitted. SnM would welcome the opportunity to engage further with SSEN-T, CnES and all stakeholders in the planning process on these matters, and remain open to considering the withdrawal of its objection should its concerns be adequately addressed.</p>
476 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285</li> </ul>

	<p>hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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478 OBJ	<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>This will not benefit the people, the area, the country it will only cause mass destruction to the area on all levels naturally, environmentally, and socially. It will be a travesty to continue with the proposed industrialisation of the Western Isles especially as it holds no consequences to the large corporate benefactors.</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.</p>
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	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan</p>
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	<p>for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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<p>482 OBJ</p>	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Our island is faced with destruction with this project. The ecosystems here will be devastated if this goes ahead. We live in such a beautiful and rich place, it's not to be bought for the few while we the people see none of "profits"</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I</p>
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	<p>urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
483 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>66% of my dna is Hebridean , I may not live there , but this place matters to me and my ancestors , preserving the unique character is vital . I have just spent time near Fleetwood looking out to sea , to watch the huge number of wind turbines there. Enough , there are other ways to generate power , which does not destroy a unique environment .</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the</li> </ul>

	<p>full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
484 OBJ	<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>Ground nesting birds &amp; other wildlife would lose their habitat. It will be an eyesore for the whole of Stornoway &amp; if anything goes wrong the local emergency services wouldn't be able to cope sufficiently.</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</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul>
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	<p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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485 OBJ	<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</p>
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	<p>industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p>Having lived on the island my whole life I strongly object to the proposals for the reasons listed below.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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. 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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b> The construction phase will</p>
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	<p>and biodiversity commitments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
486 OBJ	<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>I am strongly opposed to this proposal for the broad range of issues highlighted below</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. 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> </ul>

● Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)

● Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

● 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.

● 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.

### b) Visual Impact

● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.

● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.

● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.

● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.

● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### b) Strain on Local Services

● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height

● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms

● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken

	<p>into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<p>impacts as described below.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b>  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. 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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b>  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.  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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b>  <b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b>  <b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b> 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</li> </ul>
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	<p>transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution,</li> </ol>
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	<p>and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
488 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. It's absolutely disgusting to see the plans for our beautiful island. The natural world is being destroyed. The wildlife population around our shores is going to be decimated. I seriously hope plenty of us are objecting because this is not on!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

489 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to the construction of the Arnish hub as it will be of visual detriment to the beautiful island of Lewis. It will cause noise pollution. It will open up further industrialization of the Hebrides and offshore waters. The peatland will be disturbed. There will be an increased fire risk on the islands. There will be minimal benefit to the local community. The construction project would put huge pressure on the local infrastructure, roads, housing, ferries etc. Tourism would be negatively impacted to a huge extent. I feel very strongly that this proposed development on Lewis is a very bad idea. These islands have ancient value and significance. We have the responsibility to protect them for the next generations and pass them on intact, not strued with metal debris and flashing lights. Please block this converter station.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are</li> </ul>
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490 OBJ	<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>Lewis does not have the infrastructure to cope with this level of industrialisation. The cumulative effect of multiple developments enabled by this hub will change the character of the island forever and destroy our communities, our tourism economy, our roads, our wildlife and our environment.</p> <p>The community have not been properly consulted on this development, this is evidenced by the number of people I speak to everyday on the island who are completely unaware of it.</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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore</li> </ul>
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491 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated</li> </ul>

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	<p>overstretched tourist industry on this island and loosing more jobs than your going to create.</p> <p>Have you bought your own ferry to take all your vans to our island because all our ferries are already fully booked constantly.</p> <p>If this goes ahead, CNES is going to responsible for wrecking one of the last industry free spaces in Europe.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li><li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li></ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li><li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li></ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li><li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li></ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li><li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA</li></ul>
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	<p>and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<p>on material planning considerations, including <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.</b></p> <p>As someone who was born and raised on the island and has chosen to live here as an adult, I hold deeply the traditions, values and cultures of the island. The deep history of spiritual importance of the shores and oceans is of extreme importance to us islanders. I watch the salmon, an endangered species, migrate each year. I listen for the corncrake. I have sheep and aim to maintain traditional ways of being. These are all things which are at risk, our culture and nature and I therefore strongly object to the heavy industrialisation of this land, which the generator not only leads to but is also part of.</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>
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	<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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</p>
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496 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is a beautiful unspoilt part of our world, please keep it that way</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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499 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The size and scale of the proposal will be detrimental to our islands and home.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting</li> </ul>



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500 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I’m writing from Yorkshire but will soon be moving to the Isle of Lewis. I urge you to reject this proposal and protect the wildlife, environment and residents from the harmful effects of this plan.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ●</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity ●</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ●</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed</li> </ul>

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501 OBJ	<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>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:</p> <p>a) Destruction of Peatlands</p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</p>
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502 OBJ	I am writing to formally object to the proposed HVDC converter station

and associated infrastructure approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway, near Macaulay Farm (Ref: 25/00061/PPPM). This development raises profound concerns regarding environmental degradation, planning non-compliance, and irreversible harm to local amenity and ecology. Below, I outline my objections under material planning considerations:

#### 1. Environmental Destruction & Climate Impact

- Peatland Degradation: The site sits on carbon-rich peatland, a globally significant carbon sink. Construction and associated infrastructure (e.g., pylons, access roads) will accelerate peat damage, releasing stored carbon and directly contradicting Scotland's climate commitments.
- Threat to Protected Species: The area sustains Red List bird species and other vulnerable wildlife. Industrialisation, noise pollution, and artificial lighting will fragment habitats, with irreversible consequences for biodiversity.

#### 2. Erosion of Rural Amenity

- Noise & Light Pollution: The converter station's 24/7 operations will introduce persistent low-frequency noise and glaring artificial light, destroying the area's natural tranquillity—a key feature of its rural character.
- Visual Blight: The sheer scale (285 hectares—equivalent to Stornoway's footprint) and industrial design are wholly incongruous with the landscape, dominating views and undermining the region's scenic value.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Safety Risks

- Unsuitable Roads: Local routes are unfit for the influx of HGVs during construction, posing dangers to residents and straining crumbling road networks.
- Overburdened Services: The project's demands on emergency services, drainage, and waste management have not been credibly addressed, risking service failures for existing communities.

#### 4. Flawed Planning Process & Cumulative Impact

- 'Salami-Sliced' Approvals: The developer's piecemeal approach—segmenting the converter station, Stornoway Wind Farm (33 turbines), and other projects (e.g., N3 Talisk, N4 Spiorad na Mara)—evades scrutiny of their combined impact. A full cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be mandatory.
- Policy Non-Compliance: The proposal conflicts with local and national planning policies, including peatland protection, climate targets, and the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018, which prioritises sustainable development.

To Conclude:

	<p>This development threatens peatland stability, wildlife survival, and community wellbeing while sidestepping proper environmental scrutiny. I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject the application outright or, at minimum, defer any decision until:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A comprehensive EIA evaluates all linked projects;</li> <li>- Alternatives avoiding peatland and sensitive habitats are explored;</li> <li>- Legitimate community and statutory consultee concerns are resolved.</li> </ul> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection and include it in the planning register. I trust the Committee will uphold its duty to protect the Western Isles' environment and residents.</p>
503 OBJ	<p>I wish to register my strongest objections to the planned HVDC converter station near Macaulay Farm, 2km southwest of Stornoway. As a resident deeply concerned about our environment, local heritage, and community wellbeing, I believe this development is fundamentally unsuitable for the proposed location. Below are my principal concerns:</p> <p><b>1. Unacceptable Environmental Harm</b>  Peatland Destruction: The site is situated on ecologically sensitive peatland, which plays a vital role in carbon storage. Disturbing this area for industrial infrastructure would release significant greenhouse gases, directly undermining Scotland's climate commitments.  Wildlife Disruption: The surrounding moorland supports endangered bird species and other protected wildlife. The construction and ongoing operation of this facility would irreparably damage their habitats through noise, light pollution, and physical encroachment.</p> <p><b>2. Negative Impact on Local Quality of Life</b>  Loss of Rural Character: The converter station's massive scale (285 hectares) and industrial appearance would dominate the landscape, clashing starkly with the natural beauty of the area.  Noise and Light Nuisance: Constant operational noise and 24-hour lighting would destroy the peace and tranquillity that make this part of the island so special for residents and visitors alike.</p> <p><b>3. Practical and Safety Concerns</b>  Road Safety Risks: The construction phase would require heavy goods vehicles to use roads that are entirely unsuitable, creating hazards for local drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.  Overstretched Infrastructure: The additional strain on local services—including emergency response, drainage, and waste management—has not been adequately addressed in the proposal.</p> <p><b>4. Inadequate Assessment of Wider Impacts</b>  Cumulative Effects Ignored: This project cannot be viewed in isolation. When combined with the Stornoway Wind Farm and other planned developments (N3 Talisk, N4 Spiorad na Mara), the total impact on our environment and community would be devastating. Yet no</p>

	<p>comprehensive assessment has been conducted.</p> <p>Failure to Follow Policy: The proposal appears to contravene multiple planning policies designed to protect peatlands, wildlife, and the unique character of island communities under the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018.</p> <p><b>Conclusion &amp; Request</b></p> <p>I urge the Committee to reject this ill-conceived proposal, which threatens our environment, disregards planning policies, and fails to consider the legitimate concerns of local residents. At the very least, approval must be delayed until:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A full cumulative Environmental Impact Assessment is completed;</li> <li>2. Alternative sites—avoiding peatland and sensitive habitats—are properly evaluated;</li> <li>3. Meaningful public consultation addresses residents’ unresolved worries.</li> </ol> <p>Please confirm that this objection will be formally recorded and considered in your deliberations. The future of our island’s landscape and community depends on responsible decision-making.</p>
504 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I feel that this project is not in the best interests of our island</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
505 OBJ	<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. As an islander and an environmental consultant I wholly disagree with the scale of the proposed development which will have significant negative and disproportionate impacts on communities across the Isle of Lewis for generations to come. The proposals are being placed upon this community despite widespread objection which is largely based on the sheer scale of the Proposed Development that represents an unfair and unprecedented industrialisation of a sensitive area. Our islands and rural areas must be preserved. These communities have been subject to many injustices throughout history, please do not let this development become yet another fracture to our important island communities and our beautiful wild natural landscapes which should be protected. No possible mitigation or 'community benefit fund' could make this development acceptable. <b>1. Environmental Impact</b> 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</p>



	<p>Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>a) This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</b></p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning</p>
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	<p>policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b> This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
506 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this</li> </ul>

	<p>facility.</p> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
507 OBJ	<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>This will ruin the environment and harm the community</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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,</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network</p>
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	<p>of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
508	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this</p>

	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>I was born here and have many generations of history here. Most of my family live within the would be negatively affected area.</p> <p>What is proposed is an irreversible change to the environment, both seen and unseen. There are little long term benefits for the community and their energy bills will not be any less.</p> <p>At the very least, any property within sight or sound of these turbines</p>
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	<p>or its infrastructure should have free electricity in perpetuity to negate some of the horrendous impacts.</p> <p>In my opinion, all such projects should be government controlled and will therefore belong to all of us. If foreign companies can make money out of it, then why not the population?</p> <p>Regardless, this proposal reflects badly on the local politicians who always seem to fall back to the position of being easily flattered and persuaded by shiny business plans akin to Trump, he really didn't fall far from the Island did he?</p>
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509 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station and wind turbines for several reasons, these being; The unsightly environmental impact they will have on a beautiful, scenic undulating landscape and the long-term damage that will be done to it when erecting the turbines. Also I have seen no evidence to support that these turbines will have any significant effect on reducing CO2 levels in the atmosphere when the amount produced in their construction, transporting and then installing them is factored in, and also the days when there is little to no wind for them to operate. Also digging up the peat will release significant amounts of Methane which is a much more potent greenhouse gas than CO2. Then factor how unsightly these massive structures will be on the landscape and resultant negative impact on tourism which is a major contributor to the local economy. Also the negative impact on marine life due to very low frequency wave they will generate and also the bird kill. Due to these factors I see no positive effects that justify their being sited in this relatively unspoiled scenic area and the long-term damage that will be caused to the environment with miles of roads being ploughed through the moors and subsequent permanent scarring, as well as resultant erosion, is far too high a price to pay for any minimal benefits they produce. Due to this I strongly request Comhairle nan Eilean Siar tpo reject this proposal in it's entirety.</p>
510 OBJ	<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 <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy, severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns</b>.</p> <p>The proposed development, covering <b>285 hectares</b>—an area equivalent to the size of Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>—is <b>grossly disproportionate</b> and represents an unacceptable level of industrialisation in this rural and environmentally sensitive area.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a <b>significant threat to the local environment</b>, particularly through:</p>

	<p><b>a) Destruction of Peatlands</b></p> <p>Peatlands are globally recognised as <b>critical carbon sinks</b>, playing a major role in mitigating climate change by storing vast amounts of carbon. The excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to <b>permanent damage to peatland ecosystems</b>, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s <b>climate targets and biodiversity commitments</b>.</p> <p>This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The <b>Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan</b>, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>● The <b>Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019</b>, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></p> <p>The proposed site is <b>home to Red List bird species</b>—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, <b>will have irreversible negative impacts</b> on these species.</p> <p>The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will <b>disturb nesting and breeding patterns</b>, affecting bird species such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</b></li> <li>● <b>Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</b></li> <li>● <b>Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</b></li> </ul> <p>The UK <b>Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004</b> requires authorities to <b>safeguard biodiversity</b>—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will <b>generate a continuous low-frequency hum</b>, which is known to cause <b>sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life</b> for residents.</li> <li>● <b>24-hour security and operational lighting</b> will result in <b>significant light pollution</b>, disrupting the <b>dark skies</b> of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Visual Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The proposed converter station is an <b>industrial structure</b>, entirely <b>out of character</b> with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>● Given the lack of <b>natural screening</b>, the facility will be <b>highly visible</b> from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>● The <b>cumulative impact</b> of the converter station <b>plus associated wind farms and infrastructure</b> will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b></p> <p>The construction phase will result in a <b>major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic</b>, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage rural roads</b>, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>● <b>Increase the risk of accidents</b> for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>● <b>Cause congestion</b> on key routes, particularly in and around</li> </ul>
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	<p>Stornoway.</p> <p>There is <b>no clear mitigation strategy</b> for these impacts, making the proposal <b>irresponsible and unviable</b>.</p> <p><b>b) Strain on Local Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems</b> may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The <b>Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project</b>, yet there has been <b>no clear assessment</b> of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</b></p> <p><b>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</b></p> <p>This application <b>fails to acknowledge</b> the <b>larger industrialisation plan</b> for this area. The converter station is only one part of a <b>wider network</b> of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</b></li> <li>● <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>● <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>● <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of <b>‘salami slicing’</b>, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain</li> </ol>
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	<p>on local services.</p> <p><b>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</p> <p><b>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p><b>Additional comments:</b></p> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p>
511 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object to this proposal due to the visual impact on an area which is the first real view of the island that many visitors to the island first see but in addition to that also the visual impact from the island, it's location and its construction on carbon storing peatland which will be destroyed.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including</li> </ul>

	<p>the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
512 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
513 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
514 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is</li> </ul>

	<p>made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
515 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; We live on the island and I do not want its nature and beauty to be impacted by this vast project. We walk along that area daily and, while it might be selfish, I want to continue to enjoy the island's beauty.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Conclusion</li> <li>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</li> </ul>
516 OBJ	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Tourism is extremely important to this Island. Visitors come for the peace and unspoilt landscapes. We are NOT an industrial landscape - do not ruin Lewis.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</li> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt; This contradicts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</li> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity</li> <li>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution</li> <li>&gt; ● 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>&gt; ● 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> <li>&gt; b) Visual Impact</li> <li>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>&gt; ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</li> <li>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>&gt; ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>&gt; ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> <li>&gt; b) Strain on Local Services</li> <li>&gt; ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</li> <li>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area.</li> <li>&gt; The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>&gt; ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>&gt; ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>&gt; ● Onshore, near</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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	<p>shore</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</li> <li>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</li> <li>&gt; (EIA)</li> <li>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</li> <li>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; Conclusion</li> <li>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt;</li> <li>&gt; 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.</li> </ul>
517 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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518 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. As a frequent visitor to the island, installation of the proposed HVDC converter station would certainly put me off a visit in the future. As a frequent visitor to the island, installation of the proposed HVDC converter station would certainly put me off a visit in the future.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
519 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. For all the reasons detailed in this email, I have serious concerns about the impact that the development of this converter station will have on our beautiful island and I do not wish it to go ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation,</li> </ul>

	<p>construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
520 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Companies are destroying everything we believe in, we love our country, our wildlife and our homes and surroundings, please dont destroy our birth land just don' you already know all the reasons why, please rethink this and use another alternative!! Please, please, please!! 1. Environmental Impact Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial</p>

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521 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The beauty of the landscape needs to be protected and preserved</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p>

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522 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>These are more than just lands people live on: these are cultural futures. Much like the Gaelic language has suffered under industrialization, so will the crofting, stories, and traditional lifeways for the people who live on the Isle of Lewis. The Hebrides are akin to Canada’s reserve lands: they are all that is left of a vital way of life due to ongoing colonization. We cannot continue to engage in progress for progress’s sake. It is time to take serious stands against empire. The wind farm is too disruptive to the past, present, and future of this dynamic region. The impacts will be beyond devastating.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
523 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Who agreed for this to be done on 1st class PROTECTED peat land . Aren't we supposed to be protecting carbon capture landscapes.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List</li> </ul>

	<p>bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
524 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>



	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
525 OBJ	<p>I write to strongly object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and</p>

	<p>infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am very concerned about the greenwashing happening from the Council, SSE, Northland and various bodies about the infrastructure projects planned for the Isle of Lewis and Harris. If we allow this proposal to go ahead, not only can we never recover the pristine environment or migrate the desolation caused to rare habitat but we open the door to bigger more impactful projects; none of which will benefit the island residents with jobs or energy security. Infact tourism will drop as people do not want to take great effort and cost to visit an industrialised land.</p> <p>It will negatively impact important cultural sites and the influx of non Gaelic speakers and people not used to island life and quirks will erode our identity. I love my island but I will consider moving if this vile rape of our land continues.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> <li>● Once disturbed we can never, no matter what we do go back to what it once was, the habitat is gone for good. Around the world people are preserving peatland and trying to restore them, these project does the opposite and will release untold amounts carbon. Shetlands peatlands have be come polluted after extensive work and industrialisation.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. The site is off the main trunk road, and this will cause delays for vital goods and services traveling along the island corridor and increasing times to access medical services at the hospital etc.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
526 OBJ	<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. 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 visual impact alone will be unbearable. We have a beautiful Island and shouldn’t spoil to line other people’s pockets. Not enough money coming back to the communities.</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</p>

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	<p>We have to protect our marine life for once it's gone we can't get it back. Please think of future generations and for animal life. They deserve to live and thrive just as much as we do.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
535 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) converter station approximately 2km to the</p>

	<p>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. 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>Neither necessary for energy targets or beneficial to Scottish people whose treasured flora, fauna and landscapes are being desecrated by big business for profit</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>
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	<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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>
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	<p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
536 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I totally object to this planning application. I visit the outer Hebrides to enjoy nature, the views and complete atmosphere will be ruined by the sight of these turbines and I probably would not visit the area again which would be a great loss to local hospitality business if other tourists think like I am. I'm all for protecting our precious planet but I really don't believe wind turbines are the answer, can the impact of their manufacture really be equalled by the amount of power that they generate in their relatively short lifespan? It's not Green to mine the material required to produce a turbine and I can't imagine what the carbon footprint is to transport and install these monstrosities!</p> <p>To summarise, I object to this planning application and sincerely hope that it is not passed. The Hebrides are a special place for many many reasons and a wind farm will change the whole character of this wonderful, currently unspoiled, slice of Heaven</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<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>I have been a frequent visitor to the Isle of Lewis for over 10 years and value the peace there. Friends made on Lewis are very concerned that such a huge development will disturb the peace 24 hours per day.</p> <p>I understand that not all relevant assessments of likely disturbance have been thoroughly carried out and considered as part of proposed larger local developments.</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>
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	<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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>
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	<p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
540 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I often visit the area and feel strongly about the detrimental effects of this proposal.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
541 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Far too large scale and dominant for our small island. Destroys our special landscape. And dumping soil and running machines over the site of the historic chemical works destroys our history.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
542 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Once this huge development is there it cannot be reversed and that land will be lost forever. The Western isles are outstandingly beautiful, unique and special and it seems that is forgotten in lieu of developments that will also not even benefit the local community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon</li> </ul>

	<p>release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
543 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I’m hoping that common sense will prevail and consent for this eyesore will not be granted.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
544 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>the island is known for its gorgeous landscapes, if yous are so desperate to do it then do it where we won't see it like you've done</p>

	<p>with the rest of the farms</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
545 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed development of an HVDC converter station and associated infrastructure approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway, in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the grounds of multiple material planning considerations, including environmental</p>



	<p>impact, planning policy, loss of amenity, and infrastructure concerns.</p> <p>The scale, industrial nature, and location of this development are deeply concerning and, in my view, incompatible with the surrounding landscape and community interests.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Damage to Carbon-Rich Peatland</b></p> <p>The site lies on ecologically significant peatland – a globally important carbon sink. Disturbance and excavation of peatland for this project (and its associated works such as wind farms and pylons) will release large quantities of stored carbon into the atmosphere, directly contradicting Scotland’s and the UK’s commitments to net zero targets.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Risk to Biodiversity</b></p> <p>The area supports protected and Red List bird species, as well as sensitive ecosystems. Industrial-scale infrastructure and ongoing human activity will permanently alter these habitats. Lighting, noise, and vibration will disrupt nesting and feeding patterns, leading to a long-term decline in wildlife.</p> </li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Local Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <p>The converter station will emit a persistent low-frequency hum, day and night, disturbing residents and wildlife alike. The requirement for 24-hour lighting will destroy the natural darkness of this rural area and contribute to light pollution with potential health impacts.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Visual Intrusion</b></p> <p>The proposed development will dominate the rural skyline, visible from many locations across the island. The industrial scale of the converter station is entirely out of character with the surrounding landscape and will create long-term visual blight in an area valued for its natural beauty.</p> </li> </ul>
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### 3. Infrastructure and Road Safety Concerns

- Heavy Traffic and Road Damage

The local road network is not designed to accommodate the level of heavy vehicle traffic expected during construction and maintenance. This poses significant road safety risks and the potential for long-term damage to public infrastructure.

- Strain on Local Services

The construction and operation phases will increase pressure on local emergency services, drainage systems, and waste management. No clear mitigation plan has been presented.

### 4. Planning Policy and Cumulative Impact

- ‘Salami Slicing’ of Applications

The converter station is being presented in isolation, yet it is clearly part of a much larger industrial development scheme across Lewis. Applications such as the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), the N3 Talisk Wind Farm, and the N4 Spiorad na Mara project all require onshore infrastructure in close proximity to this proposal.

- Lack of Holistic Environmental Impact Assessment

The planning process has failed to conduct a single comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) addressing the full cumulative effects of all interconnected developments. This piecemeal approach prevents proper scrutiny and transparency.

- Loss of Public Trust

Communities are increasingly disillusioned by developments being pushed through under fragmented and unclear processes. This undermines the democratic planning process and risks long-term damage to public confidence in local governance.

### 5. Risk to Cultural Landscape and Heritage

- Loss of Cultural and Natural Identity

The location is not only environmentally sensitive but also

	<p>part of the Hebridean landscape that carries cultural and historical significance. Industrialisation at this scale risks eroding the sense of place and identity tied to land, language, and heritage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourism and Local Economy Impact</li> </ul> <p>Tourism in the Western Isles relies heavily on the unspoiled natural landscape. Large-scale industrial infrastructure may deter visitors and impact the sustainability of local businesses that rely on nature-based tourism.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This development raises serious concerns that cannot be addressed through mitigation alone. The environmental damage, planning inconsistencies, infrastructure risks, and irreversible changes to local amenity are significant. Most importantly, the failure to fully consider the cumulative impact of interconnected infrastructure projects undermines the integrity of the planning process.</p> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application in its current form.</p>
546 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The effect on the environment and the visual impact. I have concerns for road safety and the strain on local services.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. <b>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b> ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. <b>Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b> ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b> Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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547 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. <b>Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>
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	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
548 OBJ	<p>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. 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>Please don’t destroy this precious habitat, and the species that depend on it, to the detriment of the communities of people that call Lewis their home.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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</p>

	<p>peatland ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments. 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 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 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol>
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	<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>
549 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and</p>



	local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
550 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This development will have a serious impact on the quality of life of many people who will be daily affected by visual and audio disruption. And the environmental impact this development could have would be massive.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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552 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am writing to object to the proposed development on the peatlands at Arnish Moor and the associated plan to construct 66 offshore wind turbines off the coast of Lewis.</p> <p>I am deeply concerned and disappointed by this proposal, which fails to recognise or safeguard the greatest assets of our islands: our people and our environment. This development, when considered in its entirety, threatens to harm both in ways that will have lasting and detrimental consequences for generations to come.</p> <p>The peatlands at Arnish Moor are of significant environmental value.</p>

	<p>As carbon sinks and vital habitats, they play an essential role in both mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. Their destruction would not only be environmentally irresponsible, but it would also undermine national and international commitments to nature recovery and climate action.</p> <p>Moreover, the cumulative impact of this development risks violating the rights of island residents under the Human Rights Act 1998, particularly:</p> <p>Article 1 of Protocol No. 1, which protects the right to peaceful enjoyment of possessions. The environmental degradation and potential impacts on land use, crofting, and traditional livelihoods jeopardise this right, especially where local land and marine resources are at risk of industrialisation without adequate local benefit or consent.</p> <p>Article 8, which guarantees the right to respect for private and family life, home, and community. The scale and nature of this development threatens to alter the character of our landscapes, disrupt community cohesion, and diminish the quality of life for those living nearby – especially where decisions are being made without meaningful engagement or consideration of the long-term impacts on local people.</p> <p>I do not believe this proposal reflects a just or sustainable approach to energy transition. It overlooks the lived experience, knowledge, and voices of island communities, and prioritises short-term economic gain over long-term environmental and cultural wellbeing. Development on this scale must not come at the expense of our rights, our ecosystems, or our future.</p> <p>I therefore urge that this development be rejected or fundamentally revised to ensure that any action taken is genuinely in the public interest, fully accountable to local communities, and respectful of the rights and responsibilities we all share to protect our home, our environment, our social and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Please see my detailed objections below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity</li> </ol>
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553 OBJ	<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>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</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the</p>
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proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations
- Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis

Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.
3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light

	<p>pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
554 OBJ	<p>I have VERY strong family links with relatives on Lewis. While I'm supportive of smaller scale wind projects that are beneficial to the communities in which they are located. The proposed project is on an industrial scale that will be devastating economically, environmentally, socially and culturally. I STRONGLY OPPOSE this planning application.</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. 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>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● A HVDC converter station of</p>



	<p>this magnitude will generate a continuous low-frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects." ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1.</p>
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	<p>Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
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555 OBJ	<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. 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>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>
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	<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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies,</p>
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556 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I object as it is industrialising the island and will also ultimately be bad for the tourist industry and the small businesses on the island. The island will become even more depopulated as islanders will leave. I think it is being regarded in a very short term perspective as the energy that is being created will be sold off shore and any perceived benefit to the island will be outweighed by the huge</p>

	<p>negative impact on the environment and the tourist industry. In detail my objections are as follows:</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
557 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and</p>

	<p>infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Absolutely disgusting! The timeless and untouched natural beauty of the isle of Lewis will be completely raped before our eyes if these monstrosities are erected. These aren't a few standard sized windmills, this is a forest of monster sized eyesores that will shatter the peace and tranquility of our land and wildlife. Utterly disgusted. These people should be ashamed</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact</p>
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	<p>height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
561 OBJ	<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>In addition to the points laid out below, I am deeply concerned about the physical and mental health implications on local residents, given the scale and spread of the infrastructure being proposed across the island (this development and others in the pipeline of a similar nature). These proposals are wildly disproportionate to the size and needs of our communities and the benefits (if any) do not come close to outweighing the negative effects that they will bring.</p> <p>Based on the published planning application, I object on the following grounds.</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</li> </ul>
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	<p>up after this debacle has either proven that it doesn't work or when the overseas owners have stripped all their financial requirements.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></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>b) Visual Impact</b></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><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks</b> The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle</p>
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	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation</p>
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	<p>plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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568 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is important to me because I have visited Lewis growing up and it's one of my favourite island's in the Hebrides. When people talk about the islands they talk about the "amazing views" and "breathtaking scenery" and i don't know what in that says to you that "we need massive tall wind turbines", the answer is no. I also don't think you're thinking about the impact of this on the island's economy as i've already said the views and landscapes is what attracts tourists and this would significantly decrease that interest for obvious reasons.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. Please confirm receipt of this objection</p>

569 OBJ	<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. 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 islands natural beauty is priceless. It attracts people from all over the world to come and see the views, wildlife, beaches. The peace we receive from watching our coastlines will be ruined. Please don't do this to our unique world.</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</li> </ul>
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	<p>light pollution, disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul>
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	<p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<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 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</li> </ul>
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	<p>project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
573 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Shocking that our island is being sold out - just like the Highland Clearances! Our council will be named and shamed for years to</p>

	<p>come if this goes ahead. Time for them to stand up for us instead of throwing us to the lions - just remember, though, what happened to Daniel! Whose side will our council choose?</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>My father's family are from Bragar. My mother's family are from Gress. I have dozens of relations living in Lewis. The island does not need this. Scotland does not need this. It's not even as if this scheme makes financial sense across its lifetime and full cost to the environment. The government should be funding research and development of safe nuclear power rather than making rich people richer with this abomination of a wind farm scheme. Stop it now.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>5. Tourist Industry</b>  I personally worked in the tourist industry for many years and I can for-see the impact this is going to have on what is currently the biggest form of income to the island. Tourists come here to escape built up towns and areas where often all they can see is concrete walls. They come here for peace and tranquility. Who is going to want to come here once every beautiful view we have is destroyed?</p> <p>The suggested size and scale of this is monstrous and has no consideration for those of us who live and work here. We escape our own hectic lives to these areas of tranquility, Dail Mor being my own personal one. It fills me with dread to know that unless this is stopped I will lose that, not to mention future generation who will never get to experience the beauty we once did.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b>  Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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577 OBJ	<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. 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. 1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: • The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. • The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife The proposed site is home to</p>

	<p>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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean</p>
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	<p>Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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. Please confirm receipt of this objection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If this development goes ahead and one day it catches fire, we do not have the resources on island to deal with this. It's in a highly flammable area, castle grounds to one side and moor to the other. Who is paying for the extra firemen, equipment &amp; engines needed to deal with this?</li> <li>• it is my understanding that the land at Macaulay Farm was used as an experiment in the mid 1900s. The soil was "improved". This was NOT covered in the EIA, which casts a HUGE doubt on their research. If they didn't know that they didn't research the proposal properly. CNES can find more information on this at the James Hutton Institute in Aberdeen or the STY Historical Society.</li> <li>• Have CNES asked young people/families in Lewis if they'll stay if this proposal + all the other on/offshore proposals go ahead? A huge number of young people are very opposed and are actively saying they'll leave communities if they do go ahead. You CANNOT reverse/improve depopulation without women &amp; children. Heavy industry does NOT equal population growth.</li> <li>• If CNES approve this without properly consulting communities then CNES are no longer following proper democratic processes. Communities will need to take appropriate action against CNES officers + councillors.</li> </ul>
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579 OBJ	<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. 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>From a personal viewpoint I fear that this development will be environmentally damaging in all aspects. The damage caused by the development is not in proportion to any small benefits that may be derived and once the damage has been done the local area will not recover from it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant</p>
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	<p>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 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</li> </ul>
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	<p>Stornoway.</p> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> </ol>
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	<p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
580 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <p>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p>

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>Additional comments:</p> <p>I believe this wind farm is too large and close to shore. It will ruin the coast line visually and damage the environment in the ways listed above.</p>
581 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This development is the thin end of the wedge in the industrialisation of our island and its negative impacts. The exploitation of our resources by multinational companies will destroy habitats and ecosystems as well as decimating local industries such as tourism.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and</p>



	<p>planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
582 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The negatives put way the positives in my opinion and the damage done would be irreversible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
583 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is</li> </ul>

	<p>made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
584 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess</li> </ul>

	<p>the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
585 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>, an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>. It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>, including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to</li> </ul>

	<p>assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b> before any decision is made.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
586 OBJ	<p>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. 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. This development should not go ahead as there is no real benefit to local residents. A large reduction in Electricity Costs must be part of the Agreements otherwise there is no real Community Benefit -it is all pain and no gain!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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 Scotlands climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: The Scottish Government Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation. 2. Severe Impact on Amenity a) Noise and Light Pollution 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. 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 natural heritage. b) Visual Impact The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility</p>

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588 OBJ	<p>Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I'm concerned for wildlife, visual impact, the scale of the development and the impact this would have locally. Is there benefits for locals?</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact    Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.    Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity    Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.    Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns    Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.    Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development    Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.    Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>Yours faithfully, Layla Dawn Macdonald 5 Doig Crescent, Stornoway HS1 2NW, UK</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
591 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of</p>

	<p>Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>These monstrosities have been proven overseas to not live up to all the hype! They do not generate enough power to justify the cost. Apart also from the obvious detrimental effects to the environment, the lifespan of them isn't that long and disposal causes more cost and problems at landfill!</p> <p>The whole concept would be extremely problematic, with no actual advantage at all!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>
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592 OBJ	<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. 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. I am unhappy with the environmental impact of this project. Lewis is an area of outstanding, unspoiled, peaceful beauty. This development would be a tragedy.</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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. This contradicts: <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> </li> <li>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</li> </ul> <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. 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</li> </ul>

	<p>impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this application and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with</p>
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593 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I whole heartedly object the scale of this project. This will sadly change our beautiful Islands for ever. Leave it as it is.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I</p>

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- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### 4. Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
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- Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:
- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”
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b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

### Conclusion

This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.
2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.

	<p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
604 OBJ	<p><b>I am writing to object to Planning Application 25/00061/PPPM for the proposed electricity transmission hub and converter station at Arnish.</b></p> <p><b>This development would cause severe and irreversible harm to the environment as well as a loss of amenity.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposal risks an 83% net biodiversity loss, as admitted in the developer's own report. The proposal is incompatible with and undermines Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity strategy. The proposal would destroy class 1 deep peat which is one of Scotland's most valuable carbon stores. The Scottish government's peatland action Plan aims to restore peatlands so the proposal contradicts this and the proposal also contradicts the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019 which commits to net zero emissions by 2045.</li> <li>2. The proposal offers no full environmental impact assessment which needs to be undertaken to consider the combined impact of the proposal together with any associated developments. Scottish Planning Policy states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects." The proposal fails to assess the cumulative impact - including the impact of additional projects which are part of a wider industrialisation plan of the island - which violates planning policy and could lead to legal challenges. These cumulative impacts would lead to an exodus of people leaving the island as our island would be changed forever.</li> <li>3. The proposal threatens protected species. The proposed site is home to many birds which are on the red list - these species of bird are already experiencing significant decline. Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, which will have irreversible negative impacts on these species. The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity and this planning proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> <li>4. The proposal would result in a loss of amenity due to noise, light pollution and visual impact. Historical sites would be impacted by associated wind farms. Dark skies would be affected by this proposal and associated wind farms - dark skies being part of Lewis' natural heritage. Landscape would be visibly impacted. Tourists would go elsewhere affecting small businesses on the island and result in islanders leaving the island. The proposal is not in the public interest and offers no guaranteed benefits to islanders - just harms wildlife, landscape and tourism and would cause an exodus of islanders. Few people will stay around to see the industrialisation of our island.</li> <li>5. The proposal also causes major infrastructure concerns during the</li> </ol>

	<p>construction phase of the proposal due to road safety risks and a strain on local services.</p> <p>I urge you to reject this planning application.</p> <p><b>Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar local development Plan seeks to protect our natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. This proposal, which fails to comply with planning policy, would industrialise a natural landscape with long-term consequences for wildlife, tourism, and community wellbeing</b></p>
605 OBJ	<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>This is important to me as the Isle of Lewis is a special place of peace, community, wildlife and history. While I agree on the need for turbines I think there are industrial coastlines in Scotland and the UK where the turbines would cause less damage and upset to the community of the Westside and the landscape of the island.</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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
606 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> <li>●</li> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b></li> <li>● The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>●</li> <li>●</li> <li>●</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b></li> <li>● The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> <li>●</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●</li> <li>●</li> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b></li> <li>● A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>●</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>Visual Impact:</b></li> <li>• The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b></li> <li>• The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>Strain on Local Services:</b></li> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b></li> <li>• The converter station covers <b>285 hectares</b>,</li> <li>• an area equivalent to Stornoway or <b>399 football pitches</b>.</li> <li>• It is part of a <b>larger industrialisation effort</b>,</li> <li>• including the 33-turbine <b>Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)</b>,</li> <li>• and other proposed wind farms (e.g., <b>N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara</b>), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>• <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b></li> <li>• The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A</li> <li>• <b>comprehensive EIA must be undertaken</b></li> <li>• before any decision is made.</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this proposal</b>. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
607 OBJ	<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 <b>environmental destruction, failure to comply with planning policy,</b></p>

**severe impact on local amenity, and major infrastructure concerns.**

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.

The Western Isles provide an important habitat to many rare and endangered species, both resident and migrating. Not only will this project have a significant impact on those endangered and rare, resident and visiting species, it will impact on the visiting tourist numbers who come here to see them in the 'wild' Projects such the one proposed will also have a major impact on visitor numbers who just come to Lewis for the magnificent unblemished scenery.

### **1. Environmental Impact**

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a **significant threat to the local environment**, particularly through:

#### **a) Destruction of Peatlands**

Peatlands are globally recognised as **critical carbon sinks**, playing a major role in 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**.

This contradicts:

- The **Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan**, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The **Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019**, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### **b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife**

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will **disturb nesting and breeding patterns**, affecting bird species such as:

- **Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)**
- **Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)**
- **Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)**

The UK **Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004** requires authorities to **safeguard biodiversity**—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- **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.

### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an **industrial structure**, entirely **out of character** with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of **natural screening**, the facility will be **highly visible** from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The **cumulative impact** of the converter station **plus associated wind farms and infrastructure** will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

### a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks

The construction phase will result in a **major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic**, which will:

- **Damage rural roads**, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- **Increase the risk of accidents** for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- **Cause congestion** on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is **no clear mitigation strategy** for these impacts, making the proposal **irresponsible and unviable**.

### b) Strain on Local Services

- **Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems** may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The **Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project**, yet there has been **no clear assessment** of how local services will be affected.

## 4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

### a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact

This application **fails to acknowledge** the **larger industrialisation plan** for this area. The converter station is only one part of a **wider network** of developments, including:

- **Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</b></li> <li>• <b>Multiple onshore windfarm substations</b></li> <li>• <b>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</b></li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered <b>individually</b>, which <b>artificially reduces</b> their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘<b>salami slicing</b>’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to <b>avoid proper scrutiny</b>.</p> <p>This approach <b>contradicts both national and local planning policies</b>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Scottish Planning Policy (SPP)</b>, which states that “<b>cumulative impacts must be fully assessed</b> before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan</b>, which seeks to <b>protect natural and cultural heritage</b> from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</b></p> <p>Despite the <b>massive scale</b> of this proposal and its <b>interconnection with multiple other industrial projects</b>, a <b>comprehensive EIA has not been completed</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An <b>EIA must be undertaken</b> that considers the <b>combined</b> impact of this converter station <b>and all associated developments</b> before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a <b>significant procedural flaw</b>, which could lead to <b>legal challenges</b> against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is <b>fundamentally flawed</b> and must be <b>rejected</b> on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Irreversible damage to peatlands</b>, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. <b>Severe disruption to wildlife</b>, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. <b>Significant loss of residential amenity</b>, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. <b>Major infrastructure concerns</b>, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. <b>Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact</b>, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. <b>Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment</b>, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge <b>Comhairle nan Eilean Siar</b> to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a <b>full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area</b>, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
608 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and</p>

	<p>infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>These are unique and beautiful islands and we rely on this to bring tourism which is so financially important. We cannot survive without the money brought in by tourists and why do they want to come and see big wind turbines. Also the impact on the environment.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>As someone who has lived in Carloway nearly their whole lives, Dalmore beach and surrounding area has been my homeland. To see these turbines go up in such beautiful areas would ruin not only our tranquility, but that of all the wildlife that surround us. Enough of the world is in ruin, please don't do this to our sacred villages.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
611 OBJ	<p>&gt; 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>&gt; 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>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Our wildlife habitats are at a critical juncture; planning applications without</p>

	<p>appropriate due diligence seek to jeopardise these diminishing environments and are a direct threat to the future of species which must be protected not further endangered at the expense of poorly researched industrialisation.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt; This contradicts:</p> <p>&gt; ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</p> <p>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:</p> <p>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</p> <p>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</p> <p>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</p> <p>&gt; The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution</p> <p>&gt; ● 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.</p> <p>&gt; ● 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.</p> <p>&gt; b) Visual Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</p> <p>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</p> <p>&gt; ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle</p> <p>&gt; (HGV) traffic, which will:</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</p>
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	scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.
612 OBJ	<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. 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. Healthcare is already struggling with local demands. More workers from the mainland will impact the stress already on the services. It is not creating jobs for island people. Noise pollution will rise. It is an eye sore ruining a huge area of what makes this island special. Disrupting the eco system from the ocean to the skies is awful!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045. b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● 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. ● 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. b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services ●</p>

	<p>Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
613 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; As someone who has was born and has lived in Lewis my whole life, I’m deeply concerned about the long-term consequences this development could have on the landscape, biodiversity, and way of life in the Hebrides. I urge you to consider the impact on both people and place, and to prioritise sustainable planning for future generations.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and</p>

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	<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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to</p>
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615 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations.</p> <p>The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As someone who was brought up in on the islands and enjoy the wellbeing benefits of the beautiful scenery and surroundings Each and every day I am heart broken at the thought that this could forever scar that beautiful scenery and have the following negative impacts:</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</li> </ul>
616 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is diabolical, I have spent many many years in Lewis playing on the beach undisturbed by the sound and visual pollution of wind turbines. These are such</p>

	<p>precious landscapes we have to protect. The damage to natural environment and kelp forests will be immense, taking away a natural carbon sink.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
617 OBJ	<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</p>



	<p>environmentally sensitive area.</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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal</p>
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	<p>irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
618 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material</p>

planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.

They are huge and will be very ugly in a natural setting. They will add light and noise pollution. The system of add on services inland will damage already awful road surfaces. The temporary labourers will probably add social issues to local area, as they did when a large estate was being built and temporary labourers caused major issues to local residents.

Plus, probably like the land ones, they'll be off more than on due to winds being too strong or the company being paid just to keep them off, as they are for the land ones.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.

- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.

- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.

- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

#### 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.

- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

#### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

619 OBJ	<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>I absolutely object, when is enough, enough. The destruction of marine life and their natural habitat, natural landscapes, wild life habitation, peatlands, woodlands is beyond comprehension. Greed, is the main reason here, not conservation. This is soul destroying. This needs to be stopped. We moved to the island to get away from all the madness going on and find ourselves right in the middle of all this!</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. 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. 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</li> </ul>
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	<p>region's natural heritage.</p> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>
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	<p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
620 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As a regular visitor to the islands and having family living close by, I object to this travesty of spoiling the landscape and waters surrounding these beautiful and wild lands that have a unique cultural history to be proud of!</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB),</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
621 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Hopefully retiring to Barvas shortly and have a number of relatives on the island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple</li> </ul>

	<p>interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
622	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Lack of meaningful consultation and engagement with the wider population of our islands, and vague promises of community benefit without clear illustration. No clear explanation of how this very sensitive and unique natural environment will be protected.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any</li> </ul>



	<p>decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
623 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I also object to multinational profiteers destroying our natural environments and resources in the interests of their own profits, with little or no benefit to the local communities. These colossal wind turbines are proving to be an environmental problem when they reach the end of their serviceable life. Recycling these turbines is still not environmentally effective.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any</li> </ul>

	<p>decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
624 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

625 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> <li>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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> <li>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely</li> </ul>
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out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### **3 Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

- b) **Increased traffic and road safety risks:** the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.
- b) **Strain on local services:** emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

### **4 Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments**

- b) **Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:** this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.
- b) **Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):** despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
626 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Our family business is marine and tourism based and will be negatively affected by this plan. More importantly, the specialness of this remote place will be altered forever, our unique cultural and natural landscape will be irreversibly impacted, and financially we will all be worse off due to the impact on tourism with very few long term and sustainable benefits for islanders, in comparison to what we are losing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>• Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>• Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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627 OBJ	<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. 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. This is terribly wrong for the nature around, for the animals. There will be Disruption to wildlife habitat and Red List birds, Noise and Light Pollution, Gateway to other substations, industrial developments and mega wind farms (onshore, offshore and nearshore) with significant environmental, social, health and economic effects across the whole island and beyond. Please don't let this happen!!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. This contradicts: ● The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands. ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>) 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 ● 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. ● 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. ● The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty</p>
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	<p>of the area. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks 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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
628 OBJ	<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>This proposal is the first stage of a large-scale industrialisation of one of the most environmentally pristine areas in Britain. It is being undertaken with limited consultation with or agreement by, the people who live and work here.</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 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> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
629 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately

	<p>&gt; 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the</p> <p>&gt; basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of</p> <p>&gt; this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental</p> <p>&gt; impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I unreservedly urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt;     • Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a</p> <p>&gt; critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated</p> <p>&gt; infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon</p> <p>&gt; release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt;     • Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird</p> <p>&gt; species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development,</p> <p>&gt; along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant</p> <p>&gt; detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt;     • Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will</p> <p>&gt; generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting,</p> <p>&gt; affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt;     • Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature,</p> <p>&gt; out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible</p> <p>&gt; from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>&gt;     • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy</p> <p>&gt; vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing</p> <p>&gt; safety risks.</p> <p>&gt;     • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste</p> <p>&gt; management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this</p> <p>&gt; facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <p>&gt;     • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter</p> <p>&gt; station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399</p> <p>&gt; football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort,</p> <p>&gt; including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other</p> <p>&gt; proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of</p> <p>&gt; which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt;     • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; Assessment</p> <p>&gt; (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact</p> <p>&gt; of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be</p> <p>&gt; undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I</p> <p>&gt; urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The</p> <p>&gt; development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and</p> <p>&gt; local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact</p>
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630 OBJ	<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>This project does not benefit the environment or the local community. The development is far too close to the shore. Peatlands will be dug up, releasing carbon. The problems of climate change are multifaceted and will not be solved by such large scale developments as this.</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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>
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	<p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<p>strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable. b) Strain on Local Services • Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. • The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected. 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: • Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development. b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project. Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of: 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable. 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>
638 OBJ	<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>Having lived on Lewis in the Point area for 3 years, this development is totally unacceptable and will ruin a beautiful part of the world. To add insult to injury, the financial benefit to the local community will be negligible for the destruction it creates. The Western Isles has one of the highest fuel poverty rates in the country, and this will do nothing to alleviate it.</p>

### 1. Environmental Impact

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.

This contradicts:

- The Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.
- The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.

#### b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife

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.

The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

### 2. Severe Impact on Amenity

#### a) Noise and Light Pollution

- 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.
- 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.

#### b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

	<p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</li> </ul> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
639 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material</p>

	<p>planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am concerned about danger to wildlife and environment Issues regarding spoiling view of island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
640 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>



	<p>They are far too big, they will ruin our beautiful island, with no benefit to us.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
641 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I find the race to secure a few jobs 'at any cost' quite obscene. We need to consider all angles of this- why are we not upgrading the grid to make it easier for us all to contribute from solar panels on the roof of our homes- for ex. Big business is calling the shots -</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons,</li> </ul>

	<p>substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
642 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This Island is a natural beauty from beaches to moorland and more than just one or two species of flora and fauna that can only be found here. Much of that is on the west side of the island and would despoil some of the most beautiful parts. They also present a real danger to whales and dolphins and birds. Not only this but the energy supplied wouldn't benefit the Island in any way, there will be no jobs for the local population and because of weather constraints, they would be unproductive for long periods at a time, and we, the tax payers, would be the ones bearing the cost paid to the owners for doing nothing.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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643 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</p>
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	<p>carbon and undermining Scotland's climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p> <p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p>b) <b>Noise and light pollution:</b> 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. 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.</p> <p>b) <b>Visual impact:</b> the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3 Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p>b) <b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) <b>Strain on local services:</b> emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p><b>4 Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</b></p>
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	<p>b) <b>Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:</b> this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
644 OBJ	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 Macauley 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.

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.

## **1 Environmental Impact**

The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, particularly through:

- b) **Destruction of peatlands:** peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.
- b) **Disruption to protected wildlife:** 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); the Merlin (*Falco columbarius*); and the Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## **2 Severe Impact on Amenity**

- b) **Noise and light pollution:** 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. 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.
- b) **Visual impact:** the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening,

	<p>the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p><b>3 Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</b></p> <p><b>Increased traffic and road safety risks:</b> the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport</p>
645 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <p>b) <b>Destruction of peatlands:</b> peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</p> <p>b) <b>Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</p>

## **2 Severe Impact on Amenity**

- b) **Noise and light pollution:** 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. 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.
- b) **Visual impact:** the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## **3 Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

- b) **Increased traffic and road safety risks:** the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.
- b) **Strain on local services:** emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## **4 Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments**

- b) **Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:** this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects"; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development



	<p>Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) <b>Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):</b> despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>8. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>9. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>10. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>11. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>12. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
646 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></p> <p>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment,</p>

particularly through:

- a) **Destruction of peatlands:** peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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. This contradicts: the Scottish Government's Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.
- b) **Disruption to protected wildlife:** 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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*); the Merlin (*Falco columbarius*); and the Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## 2 Severe Impact on Amenity

- a) **Noise and light pollution:** 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. 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.
- b) **Visual impact:** the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## 3 Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- a) **Increased traffic and road safety risks:** the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural

roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users; and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

- b) **Strain on local services:** emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

#### 4 Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments

- a) **Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:** this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.
- b) **Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):** despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.

#### Conclusion

Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:

1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and

	<p>biodiversity commitments.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
647 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Have a house in Arnol, disgraceful that we are even debating this. Proposal should never have been an option...money and power over preserving the beautiful, unique land and sea and all it contains and means. Hang your heads in shame or stand up to preserve the outstanding environment of Lewis please</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> <li>Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> <li>Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented</li> </ol>

	<p>approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
648 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. Net zero is going to kill everything on our land poisoning our water and ultimately ruin our country STOP THE MADNESS 1. Environmental Impact Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
649 OBJ	<p><b><u>Please take note of my additional comments below.</u></b></p> <p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species</li> </ul>

and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

## 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.
- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

## 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

## 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers **285 hectares**, an area equivalent to Stornoway or **399 football pitches**. It is part of a **larger industrialisation effort**, including the 33-turbine **Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB)**, and other proposed wind farms (e.g., **N3 Talisk** and **N4 Spiorad na Mara**), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.
- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A **comprehensive EIA must be undertaken** before any decision is made.

## Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to **reject this proposal**. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

## Additional comments:

I object to the building of a such huge 'offshore' turbine farm and its associated infrastructure which would permanently detrimentally affect both marine and peatland environments. While there may be a temporary small increase in employment, the long term negative effects on tourism would outweigh any gains. Visitors and residents value the peace, tranquillity and wild life experiences these islands provide. When so much is being made of mental health we should appreciate the few places like this remaining even more, and not destroy them by large scale industrialisation.

Why are the planners not heeding the warnings of men like Sir David Attenborough, who has spoken out against the crisis for wild-life in the UK and over the whole planet? When are planners going to realise action must be taken now to avoid further depletion of our already reduced and threatened flora and fauna. Also take into account for this area in particular the book by Adam Nicolson, 'Where the seabirds cry' which speaks of the devastation of seabird populations, which will suffer significantly if these plans are brought to fruition. Why cannot governments focus on reducing energy requirements rather than allowing wholesale environmentally destructive schemes for 'growth' at all

	<p><b>costs. Once these precious habitats are destroyed there is no way back in our lifetime. The general population should be encouraged/incentivised to reduce their energy consumption. There seems to be little advantage for the local communities with the energy generated likely to be exported to energy hungry areas. A development on the scale must be stopped.</b></p>
650 OBJ	<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>Industrialisation of the islands on this grand scale not only affects the health and wellbeing of islanders and animal species.</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. 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. 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,</li> </ul>

disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.

b) Visual Impact

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.

There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

b) Strain on Local Services

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments

a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
  - Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
  - Multiple onshore windfarm substations
  - Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis
- Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.

This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:

- Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.

- An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.
- Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.



	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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651 OBJ	<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 land and the sea is an important aspect of life and culture on Lewis and the people who live in the villages on the west coast with a view of this proposed site do not want a wind farm this close to the shore. People on Lewis already pay more for electricity despite having a number of turbines and this proposed site has no local benefit for the community. My family here have repeatedly rejected these proposals and do not feel heard in this process.</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</p>
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	<p>development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species. 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their</p>
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	<p>perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
652 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Haven't the people of Lewis suffered enough? This most precious of communities, one of the last surviving places where Gaelic is a genuinely vernacular language, why must they be rendered powerless to make decisions about their own homeland? Why must we have to submit these objections to even get a hearing? The decision as to whether it goes ahead or not MUST be with the people of the west side.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and</li> </ul>

	<p>other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
653 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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654 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I find the whole idea of industrialising one of the last remaining wild spaces in the UK a travesty. We have an extensive cetacean (Whales and Dolphin) population which turbines on such a scale will have a detrimental if not devastating impact on their habitat. The impact of such a development of this scale and it's construction will not only have a huge impact on the islanders but also the employment that tourism brings.</p> <p>The standing electric charge currently for residents of the western isles is greater than central London, which is an utter disgrace. The only people that will benefit is the multinationals and shareholders.</p> <p>As much as I believe in climate change and it's impacts and respect that carbon reduction is urgently needed, I think that doing it on the scale with very little benefit to communities on the island is a disgrace.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> </ul>

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655 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macauley Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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656 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>

	<p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments. P</p>
657 OBJ	<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 industrialisation of the islands is not worth the minute benefits that the mainland will be getting from this project, certainly Lewis will gain nothing lasting and <a href="#">will be</a> poorer for its implementation.</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</li> </ul>



	<p>pollution, disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region's natural heritage.</p> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
658 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The local people do not want this, nor do their friends and family and visitors to these stunning locations do not want this either. Tourists will reduce in numbers as the unspoilt beautiful islands are why they visit in droves.</p> <p>Respect the view of the locals, it is their home. Their home, their choice. Do not grant permission</p> <p>The low level noise will badly impact on wildlife and locals, as outlined below the impact will be hugely detrimental to all and that includes the environment.</p> <p>People before profit. Nature before profit. The profit will not go to these islands nor islanders nor Scotland itself, permission must not be granted. This is another poor decision in the making, denying permission is the only way forward. The environmental impact will be catastrophic (the irony of this should not be lost on you) and you are permitting the destruction of peaceful ways of life that islanders have preserved for many generations.</p> <p>This kind of development does not belong in an area of world renowned natural beauty.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

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659 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Our landscape is one of the last barely disturbed areas left in Scotland. This is a decision that we will come to regret for generations. Leave our landscape untouched for future generations.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>
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	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
660 OBJ	<p>etc 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. 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. Having grown up on Lewis, I am deeply saddened to see these plans. Not only are the islands a unique place of natural beauty, but the points stated in this letter show that it has a far wider impact than appearances alone. I urge you to reconsider.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. 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 The proposed site is home to Red List bird species—species of high conservation concern that are already experiencing significant declines.</p>

	<p>Large-scale development, along with increased noise, artificial lighting, and habitat disturbance, will have irreversible negative impacts on these species. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: • Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) • Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</p> <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 • 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. • 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.</p> <p>b) Visual Impact • The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. • Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. • The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: • Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport. • Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. • Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services • Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. • The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: • Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height • Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms • Multiple onshore windfarm substations • Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: • Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.” • Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. • An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made. • Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>Conclusion This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <p>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and</p>
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	<p>biodiversity commitments. 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species. 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact. 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services. 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy. 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable</p>
661 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

662 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>There is absolutely no benefit to the islands at all, A great eyesore on the horizon. After us closing most of the peatbanks on the island in the name of carbon capture' they are going to rip the moor land up. Think of the environmental impact this is going to have on the seabed' the damage and destruction that will cause and the destruction to the to the moor land.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

663 OBJ	<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 Macauley 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><b>1 Environmental Impact</b></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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Destruction of peatlands:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. peatlands are globally recognised as critical carbon sinks, playing a major role in 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</li> <li>c. ecosystems, releasing stored carbon and undermining Scotland’s climate targets and biodiversity commitments. This contradicts: the Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands; and the Climate Change (Scotland) Act</li> <li>f. 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>h. Disruption to protected wildlife:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. 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</li> <li>j. negative impacts on these species. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: the Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>); the Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>); and the Red-throated</li> <li>m. Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>). The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity. This proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>2 Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a. Noise and light pollution:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. 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. 24-hour security and operational lighting will result in significant light</li> <li>e. pollution, disrupting the dark skies of the Outer Hebrides, an important feature of the region’s natural heritage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**g. Visual impact:**

- h. the proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings. Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape. The cumulative
- k. impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

**3 Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

**a. Increased traffic and road safety risks:**

- b. the construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will: damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport; increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users;
- e. and cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

**g. Strain on local services:**

- h. emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services
- k. will be affected.

**4 Planning Policy Violations & ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments**

**Inadequate consideration of cumulative impact:**

- a. this application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including: the Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height; proposed substations
- b. for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms; multiple onshore windfarm substations; and onshore, near shore and offshore windfarms around Lewis. Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This
- c. is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: the Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states
- g. that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects”; and the Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.

**i. Failure to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment (EIA):**

- j. despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed. An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated
- m. developments before any decision is made. Failure to do so would

	<p>represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>Proposal 25/00061/PPPM is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6.</li> <li>7. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
664 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>They will spoil the natural beauty of the island not to mention the impact on the ecology system and animals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</li> </ol>

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665 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This is an area of outstanding beauty leave it alone.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact    <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.    <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity    <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.    <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns    <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.    <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development    <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.    <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns,</p>

666 OBJ	<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>Going to be disastrous on the local tourist industry on the island.</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</li> </ul>
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	<p>multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> </ol>
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	<p>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</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>
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667 OBJ	<p>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 scale of the proposals in relation to the island seem grossly inappropriate, and will cause serious industrialisation to a remote rural area which will see very little, if any benefits from the generation of energy.</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. 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>
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	<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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p>
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	<p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
668 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I'm sure object hugely to this, My family homes are in South Shawbost and Ballantrushal and both look onto the sea. We do not want to be looking out at these. I think this will impact negatively on tourism, sealife and sustainability regarding fishing etc... . This will not improve the economy of Lewis but hinder the islands ability to thrive and maintain the generations of island culture that are built into the west side of Lewis. All for the sake of ticking a box In government policy and making money that will not even be used to appropriately to support Island life. Absolutely horrendous proposal that will only impact positively on the fatcats. Put them in your own front garden, nah you won't do that will you?</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>



	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
669 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It is time Scotland stood up for itself. We have so much beauty, scenery, wildlife, clear water, wild places - so much is at stake. These monstrosities will ruin everything - and what is actually the advantage to the locals? To the Scottish people???</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the</li> </ul>

	<p>tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
670 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Dear Sir/Madam,</p> <p>25/00061/PPPM – Electricity Transmission Hub - HVDC Converter Station, Substations etc</p> <p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>

	<p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
671 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I’m horrified at the immense sacrifices to nature/environment that’s planned in the name of net zero in an area that should be protected due to its fragile marine diversity/ peatlands .</p> <p>It’s blatantly obvious to the majority that Scotland’s efforts to net zero will have no impact on the global scale but will destroy our countryside and cost our tax payers significantly. The recycling and disposing of used turbines not to mention the debris from aged , failing turbines into the environment is very questionable and seems to be ignored . Politicians need to listen to scientists not employed by these large corporations and the public that are hugely impacted by this industry.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and</li> </ul>

	<p>international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
672 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I oppose the industrialisation of the Scottish rural areas this proposed project will ruin the landscape, peatlands, dark sky, wildlife habitat, noise pollution and decimate local communities it needs to be stopped.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and</li> </ul>

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	<p>Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
674 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>There seems to be very little recompense to the Island for such a massive undertaking. Large tracts of land that will really only benefit corporations and the UK government. Our island, our wind but we will get very little benefit from it.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
676 OBJ	<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>I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of wind turbines, associated transmission lines, and related infrastructure on the Isle of Lewis.</p> <p>While I recognise the urgent need to transition to renewable energy sources, the scale and placement of these developments on the Isle of Lewis raise serious concerns. The island is home to a unique and fragile ecosystem, rich in biodiversity, including internationally important peatlands and habitats protected under various environmental designations. These lands not only store vast amounts of carbon—acting as natural carbon sinks—but also represent an irreplaceable part of our cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>The visual and environmental impact of industrial-scale wind farms on this landscape would be profound. The towering turbines and sprawling infrastructure would permanently alter the unspoilt character of the island, affecting both residents and visitors alike. Tourism, a vital part of the local economy, relies heavily on the natural beauty and tranquility of the region. Sacrificing this for short-term industrial gains could cause lasting economic harm.</p> <p>Furthermore, there is widespread local opposition to these developments. It is critical that the voices of local communities are not ignored in decisions that will fundamentally affect their way of life, their environment, and their future.</p> <p>Renewable energy must be part of a sustainable future—but not at the cost of destroying the very environments we seek to protect. I urge decision-makers to reconsider these proposals and to seek more appropriate, community-backed, and environmentally responsible alternatives.</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</p>



	<p>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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial</li> </ul>
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	<p>project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
677 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>There are plenty of other suitable sites around the coast of Scotland, particularly</p>

	<p>in the North Sea. This is and should remain an unspoilt region.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>There is no reason to sell off the natural and cultural heritage of the island for the sake of a short term development binge that will quickly ebb and leave the entire community worse off.</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. 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 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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	<p>and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; The wind industry have not thought through the more sustainable and proven alternatives in real renewable power. Whilst the wind is fickle and uncontrollable, hydro is the opposite. Instant, controllable and long lasting. The scheme proposed is not required on the islands and purely a way of destroying the islands to line the pockets of developers in other countries.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p>
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	<p>material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>We have family in Lewis, and intend to retire there soon. This development will be a blight on the beautiful natural landscape.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>on the population of the area if residents have to move away from the island for work, taking their families elsewhere. Often, when developments such as the one planned is mentioned, the offer of jobs is used as a way of bringing favour to residents. It is rare that locals get jobs from construction or maintenance. I ask that you consider the implications of everyone who lives within Comhairle nan Eilean Siar as often the goose who offers the golden egg is not real, nor is the egg worth anything.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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693 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. The natural scenery of the Hebrides is so incredibly special to the landscape and natural environment of the area. To completely destroy this landscape would be despicable. This project cannot go ahead.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services:</li> </ul>

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	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
697 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I have visited the Isle of Lewis various times and my son and his family now live here. My objection is based on the impact that it will have on, not just the tourism which the island needs, but the environmental devastation.</p> <p>There is no benefit to the population of Lewis and it will be detrimental to the community.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge</p>

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699 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>My family were from Lewis and I am a regular visitor. The scale of these turbines is shocking and will destroy the landscape. Go for offshore power/tidal/wave power or smaller turbines.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

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	<p>raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; The scenery off the islands is stunning and unique. these things will ruin the view and the environment, things that should be protected.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I object to current renewables culture as the costs far out way the use of fossil fuels, which we have an abundance of and still rely on. With infrastructure already in place, it's time for a large dose of common sense before we become 100% reliable on importing energy from abroad.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
704 OBJ	<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>&gt; 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>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; End this now</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt; This contradicts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The Scottish Government’s Peatland Action Plan, which aims to protect and restore peatlands.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2019, which commits to net-zero emissions by 2045.</li> </ul> <p>&gt; b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 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.</li> <li>&gt; The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>)</li> <li>&gt; ● Red-throated Diver (<i>Gavia stellata</i>)</li> </ul> </li> <li>&gt; The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.</li> </ul> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; a) Noise and Light Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● 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>&gt; ● 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>&gt; b) Visual Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.</li> <li>&gt; ● Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.</li> <li>&gt; ● 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>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <p>&gt; a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle</p> <p>&gt; (HGV) traffic, which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.</li> <li>&gt; ● Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.</li> <li>&gt; ● Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway.</li> </ul> <p>&gt; There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>&gt; b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p>
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	<p>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,</p> <p>&gt; including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ●</li> <li>Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ●</li> <li>Multiple onshore windfarm substations ●</li> </ul> <p>Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>&gt; (EIA)</p> <p>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ul> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 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>&gt;</p>
705 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Don't spoil our beautiful island for greed!</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
706 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This will spoil the moorland and when we have been told to regenerate the peatlands</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global</li> </ul>



	<p>carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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707 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. please don't destroy our beautiful islands and wildlife</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a</p>
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	<p>significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity • Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. • Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns • Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. • Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development • Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. • Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>&gt; ● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>&gt; a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments,</p> <p>&gt; including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height ● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms ● Multiple onshore windfarm substations ● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>&gt; This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <p>&gt; ● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</p> <p>&gt; ● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</p> <p>&gt; b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>&gt; (EIA)</p> <p>&gt; Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <p>&gt; ● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <p>&gt; 1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</p> <p>&gt; 2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</p> <p>&gt; 3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</p> <p>&gt; 4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</p> <p>&gt; 5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</p> <p>&gt; 6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 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>
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	<p>raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This would harm both marine life and birds.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
710 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I value the rural area where the proposed site of the converter station is located, walking there daily with my dog. It would be a great loss to the</p>

	<p>community to have this land taken away from us and turned into something so ugly and imposing, with no tangible benefit to us.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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713 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Please reconsider this structure and the devastating effect it will have on our island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul>



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714 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This massive windfarm scheme and all its associated infrastructure will spoil the natural beauty of the Islands, for very little gain. These multinational company's should go elsewhere. Preferably down south closer to where the generated power will be used.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

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715 OBJ	<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. 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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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. 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>
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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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting and breeding patterns, affecting bird species such as:

- Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)
- Red-throated Diver (*Gavia stellata*)

The UK Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 requires authorities to safeguard biodiversity—this proposal clearly contradicts this obligation.

## **2. Severe Impact on Amenity**

### **a) Noise and Light Pollution**

- 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.
- 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.

### **b) Visual Impact**

- The proposed converter station is an industrial structure, entirely out of character with its rural surroundings.
- Given the lack of natural screening, the facility will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints, permanently altering the landscape.
- The cumulative impact of the converter station plus associated wind farms and infrastructure will further degrade the natural beauty of the area.

## **3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns**

### **a) Increased Traffic and Road Safety Risks** The construction phase will result in a major increase in heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic, which will:

- Damage rural roads, which are not built to withstand industrial transport.
- Increase the risk of accidents for pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users.
- Cause congestion on key routes, particularly in and around Stornoway. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.

### **b) Strain on Local Services**

- Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.
- The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.

## **4. Planning Policy Violations & 'Salami Slicing' of Developments**

### **a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact**

This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:

- Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height
- Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms
- Multiple onshore windfarm substations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
716 OBJ	<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. 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><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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</p>

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717 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This would be terrible for our islands authenticity and will drastically change</p>

	<p>the lives and homes of many islanders.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
718 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Why would you want to desecrate our island with these monstrosities. Ten miles offshore maybe, but don't put them onshore.</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
719 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national</li> </ul>



	<p>and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
720 OBJ	<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>As more and more aquatic animals habitats are destroyed from being used by humans we are losing many amazing animal species to extinction. Our world is declining due to the damage done to nature for commercial use. Please leave this marine area undisturbed. The peat lands house many birds and mammals that have nowhere to go if you use it commercially and they all help create the</p>

	<p>beautiful landscape you enjoy The animals cannot speak for themselves but I and people like me are asking you to leave the land and waters a safe place for all animals.Thank you</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. 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 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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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol>
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	<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>
721 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is a horrendous project of benefit only to the energy companies involved. It brings no value to the islands only destruction.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing</p>

	the necessary cumulative impact assessments.
722 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This environment is of national importance. The precedent these plans would set, should they be carried out, would be catastrophic for communities beyond this one.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

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723 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I'm sure you can find somewhere else to build your wind farm, preferably a place where you won't add to the destruction of a fragile ecosystem. Please stop destroying the planet.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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724 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Going to look awful and there's a trail of destruction everywhere this company has gone. Like they care about the community in Lewis that's a farce. The west coast is stunning here and nobody wants it ruined by these things in the water.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
725 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km

	<p>southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I am objecting to more renewable infrastructure in Scotland on the grounds that it is unnecessary, destroys natural habitat and wildlife, threatens food security, destroys a Scotlands countryside, reduces property prices, affects communities' wellbeing. It does not bring any long term benefit to Scotland and has only made our energy bills dearer (eg constraint payments).</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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726 OBJ	<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>I am particularly concerned about the effects on multiple bird species that are threatened and facing decline in the UK, including curlew and lapwing.</p> <p>Additionally, this development will facilitate the further destruction and loss of wild land through enabling the development and industrialisation of the largely pristine boggy moorland of the Isle of Lewis as well as the surrounding seas, with ensuing negative effects on the landscape, environment, wildlife, and on human wellbeing. The proposed development and related developments multiple will have negative effects on multiple designated areas of special scientific interest as well as scenic areas.</p> <p><b>1. Environmental Impact</b></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>b) Disruption to Protected Wildlife</b></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. 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><b>2. Severe Impact on Amenity</b></p> <p><b>a) Noise and Light Pollution</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A HVDC converter station of this magnitude will generate a continuous low-</li> </ul>
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	<p>frequency hum, which is known to cause sleep disturbances, stress, and reduced quality of life for residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny.</p> <p>This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this</li> </ul>
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	<p>converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
727 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Development which impacts Class 1 protected peatland is not be permitted and is the likelihood of releasing more CO2 through the destruction of the peatland is going to outweigh any benefits of the proposed energy scheme.</p> <p>The visual impact of the offshore wind turbines will be detrimental to the communities and tourist industries of the Isle of Lewis. Damage to the marine ecosystems both during construction and through the lifespan of the turbines will be considerable - and in combination with the underwater connections and pipelines - is unacceptable. Renewable energy facilities have their place - but this development is wholly unacceptable in the rich marine ecosystems of the Outer Hebrides and the peatlands of Arnish.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
728 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This whole proposal is inappropriate for the chosen location: it is a socio-economic disaster for this sensitive and exceptionally natural Island; similarly, all such proposals are only suited to brownfield and derelict sites. This proposal fails in all ways to provide an adequate stepping stone for Scotland to get anywhere close to approaching net zero. The exceptional damages it will incur are creating both environmental harms which cause a failing nature, and human health harms of failing health, mental stress and loss of wellbeing. The proposal is contrary to the National Islands Plan as it will not work for the interests and wellbeing of local communities. The proposal will be the cause of excessive emissions which will therefore fail COP agreements and ambitions, and will set a very poor example of mismanagement of this particularly sensitive, and therefore highly vulnerable island. This island is no place for heavy industrial traffic loads, excessive industrial noise, and heavy industrial particulate air pollution. The Isle of Lewis is worth more than money can buy: it is no brownfield industrial polluting site. We have too much to lose to this human folly. Please think again, independently of 'the gang', for all our sakes. This is not the way to avoid poverty growing through our island communities: offshoring profits and pushing financial responsibility onto</p>

consumers/bill payers/ the public, via our electricity bills. It appears that very little of our energy bills are actually for the actual COST of ENERGY we use. That is what an electricity bill should be: a standing charge plus charge of cost of energy consumed. Cut out the heavy costs of heavy infrastructure; local renewables energy production close to local need and where energy will be therefore be used. It also seems wrong to have the major stakeholder being one-and-the same as the designer and developer of this extensive infrastructure. Could that be seen as an unfair and seemingly unchallenged bias? This renewables rush is the cause of island poverty and declining natural and human health, which are indelibly linked. BMJ (British Medical Journal) November 2023, is a reference worth reading on this subject. Sincerely.

#### 1. Environmental Impact

- **Damage to Peatlands:** The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.
- **Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:** The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.

#### 2. Impact on Amenity

- **Noise & Light Pollution:** A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.
- **Visual Impact:** The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.

#### 3. Infrastructure & Road Safety Concerns

- **Traffic & Safety Issues:** The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.
- **Strain on Local Services:** Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.

#### 4. Planning Policy & 'Salami Slicing' of Development

- **Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:** The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.
- **Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):** The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.

#### Conclusion

Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.

729 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>More cheap energy for the south of England while we pay a ridiculous premium in Highland and Islands and have our landscape trashed too !!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
730 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development</p>

	<p>raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is my letter of objection. I am horrified that you would think this the right decision for our islands due to any number of reasons you can think of, this is going to have a huge detrimental effect on the islands and all who live plus come to visit.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
731 OBJ	I am writing to formally object to the proposed High Voltage Direct Current

	<p>(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>Concerned with how detrimental this is to the island. The impact on wildlife, peat land, the social impact on the island. I am concerned with light pollution, sound pollution, the destruction of a beautiful habitat for financial greed.</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,</p> <p>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</li> </ul>
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	<p>character with its rural surroundings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>● Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>
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	<p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
732 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Wind turbines are not green The materials ,oil, steel ,Fossil fuels to build one will never be recuperated in their 20 year expectancy Green energy is a myth</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Environmental Impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Impact on Amenity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

	<p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
733 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>This is not in the best interests of the people of Lewis.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway</li> </ul>

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	<p>This is and always will be my home. The destruction of the island that has already experienced so much is beyond any logic I can understand. On a personal level these proposals break my heart as I know it does many more on the island. I have researched for a long time and tried to understand how this will be beneficial to us, particularly given the large majority of the population of the island being elderly, vulnerable people and just cannot find the reasoning, it's devastating.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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742 OBJ	<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>In short, it is a short-sighted decision to exploit one of the most culturally and environmentally fragile environments in Scotland to become a national industrialised wind factory.</p> <p>The scale of this proposal is not balanced, and had the wind farm that this is supporting been proposed for further off-shore, or the site for the interconnector been suggested for an already industrialised area of the island (Arnish) there may be community support (IF the wind farms supply real tangible community benefit).</p> <p>If this proposal goes ahead, nothing will stop these wind farm companies turning the whole west coast of the Outer Hebrides into a wind factory. There is no evidence that this has been planned with the proper respect for the people or environment of the island, and the long term affect it will have on these, therefore I cannot support it.</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,</p> <p>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. 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>
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	<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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of 'salami slicing', where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that "cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects."</li> <li>● Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul>
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	<p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland's climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
743 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I want to ensure that the Isle of Lewis is not destroyed by such huge</p> <p>&gt; developments on our beautiful island</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; • Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; • Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; • Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p>

	<p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
744 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The</p>



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745 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Wind power is an important part of reducing carbon emissions, but please choose another location. Surely there is somewhere that meets the needs of this project that isn't such an important habitat.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The</p>

	<p>construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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746 OBJ	<p>I am writing to formally <b>object</b> 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>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</p>
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	<p>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. 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> </ul>
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747 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Peat lands store Co2 , by digging and disturbing them this is released into the ozone cause more hot house gasses. This is not helping the planet and reverses Netzero !! Defeats the whole point of what we are trying to achieve.</p> <p>If these substations catch fire who will put them out??</p> <p>The islands have small fire services available, peat will also hold fire and keep</p>

	<p>burning.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
748 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It may become a environment disaster, it should be built in the south of England where they use more electricity</p>

	<p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise</li> </ul>
749 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of several material planning considerations. This development raises serious concerns regarding visual and environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. This proposal contravenes every rule of environmental conservation..... peatlands should not be damaged in this way..... nothing will mitigate that. The reality is that the experiment of the last two decades with renewables, mostly wind turbines and solar, has failed. The add-on costs of constraints payments, subsidies, levies and grid upgrades continue to result in ever increasing in household bills. The intermittency of renewables means they can never provide reliable and consistent baseload and we will always be dependent on gas as our reserve. Scotland as we all know produces more than enough energy from renewables.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject</li> </ul>

	<p>this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
750 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>On a personal note... The west side of Lewis has been our Mother's family home for generations. It is our safe place and escape. I want our son to feel the same way I did looking out into the Atlantic Ocean from some of our favourite beaches and landmarks and the family home and see what I saw. The island is so special and sacred, from the views, the peat, the wildlife, the never ending ocean to sky views that take your breath away. The silence! This will be just the beginning. If this is what they can do, think of what others, or what more they will want to take. Not only is it a blight on the landscape and environment but it'll impact the day to day lives of residents who have lived on the island for generations and tourists. Who wants to visit an island with views of wind turbines? Tourists and views are detrimental to the islands upkeep and progress.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul>

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751 OBJ	<p>etc I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I have visited Lewis on several occasions for the landscape, the wildlife and the peace and quiet of the island. Developments such as this threaten all of these, which make the place so special.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact    Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity    Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.    Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns    Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.    Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; Salami Slicing of Development    Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before</p>



	<p>any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
752 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>

753 OBJ	<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><b>This development would be catastrophic for the island, the people and the animals which call it home. It's shockingly disrespectful how ZERO care or consideration has been given to the islanders or wildlife that live on and around Lewis and how disconnected those who are planning the project are from the real life implications this will have on the community. It's easy enough to make these kinds of decisions when you're sat in an office somewhere in Canada, so incredibly far removed from the place and the people that this will impact! You will never have to live with the implications. Finally, if this campaign wasn't bad enough as is, the icing on the cake is that it's disgustingly not even about the environment! It's only (as it always is) about money. Bu choir nàrr a bhith oiribh - leave us alone.</b></p> <p><b>It's your island too and you are the people we trust to advocate for and protect us - it's time for you to step up and do your job as you vowed to do when you took your position. Do you think this is what our ancestors would have wanted? If you're prepared to ruin our home and sell us out for money you will never be forgiven.</b></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,</p> <p>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. The destruction of habitats and increased human activity will disturb nesting</p>

	<p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their</p>
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	<p>perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <p>I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to <b>reject this application</b> and insist on a full-scale review of the industrialisation of this area, with proper environmental scrutiny.</p>
754 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
755 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>What this area means to me cannot be put in to words.</p> <p>The communities who live along this coast do not deserve this.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a</li> </ul>

	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
756 OBJ	<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>I am truly devastated to see the onslaught of planning applications throughout Scotland with apparently no “joined up” thinking or planning from any of the commercial applicants or guidance from local or national government.</p> <p>There will be no cheaper electricity for any area of Scotland and the Western Isles are no different.</p> <p>How can ripping up peatbogs, which store carbon be part of a green agenda?</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</p>

	<p>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. 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 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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an</li> </ul>
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	<p>industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</li> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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757 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It is not good for the environment including the sea life that live in the oceans with no means of escape.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
758 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of</p>

	<p>material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>It's distressing that the lack of consideration or consultation that has been given to the community and people that will be impacted the most by the proposed site.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
759 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development</p>

	<p>raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>The view</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
760 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy,</p>

	<p>amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>As a surfer and Gaidhlig learner, I spend a lot of time on the coasts of Lewis, and it is the wild, open beauty that draws me there. Offshore wind farms directly ruin this peace and the environment and ecologies present - sea and bird life will be affected significantly, as well as tourism and the local community. Turning what has always been an incredible historical and cultural landscape into yet another industrial development is sickening.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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761 OBJ	I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately
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	<p>2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I moved here 21 years ago to bring my son up in a beautiful natural place untouched by industrialisation ,and especially as an amateur astronomer,the clear skies .these islands are some of the very few places we can live with small populations and no awful industrialisation,natural ,simple living and now that's going to be destroyed along with many peoples lives ,including mine, I have left my cottage to my son in my will so he will always have the security of somewhere to live whatever happens in his life ,that security is as a widow all I can leave him and now he will either be forced to live in a hideous unhealthy wind farm or sell it at a loss if he can sell it at all. 1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact. 2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints. 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
762 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical</li> </ul>

	<p>global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
763 OBJ	<p>I am writing to strongly object to the proposed SSEN turbine development on the Isle of Lewis.</p> <p>Lewis remains one of the last truly wild and unspoiled landscapes in Scotland. To push forward with this development is not progress, it is a regressive step that threatens the very character and soul of the island. The proposed turbines would not only cause irreversible destruction to a fragile and unique ecosystem, but also devastate the visual integrity of a landscape that has stood untouched for generations.</p> <p>This is not just about habitat loss, though that in itself is grave. The aesthetic</p>

	<p>impact is jarring and unacceptable. The imposing presence of industrial turbines will irreparably damage the natural beauty that defines Lewis, harming both the island's tourism industry and the well-being of its residents. Visitors come for the raw, untouched scenery—scenery that would be forever altered. Locals, too, deserve to live in harmony with nature, not in the shadow of mechanical monoliths.</p> <p>I fully support renewable energy. However, true sustainability respects not just carbon targets but communities, landscapes, and biodiversity. This proposal does not. It represents short-term thinking at the expense of long-term cultural and environmental loss.</p> <p>There must be a better way, one that works with, not against, the land and the people who call it home.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p>
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	<p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
764 OBJ	<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>As a Highland resident I do not want this project to go ahead. There are numerous associated developments that have been undergoing route planning, environmental impact studies etc. for years. All of these projects are dependant on this application. It can only be described as underhand as to why developers have not been forced to produce a full cumulative impact study on all of these developments affecting the Highlands.</p> <p>By not showing the whole picture and instead adopting this piecemeal approach at looking at each development independently is very telling.</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,</p> <p>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> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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. There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</li> </ul> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>● The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>● Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>● Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>● Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large</p>
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	<p>development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
765 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. I object to this on the grounds that it is environmentally destructive and unnecessary.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>• Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> </ul>

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766 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Peat should be protected by law.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> </ul>

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767 OBJ	<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. 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. Shetland is being destroyed by these machines powered by corporate greed. Do not let the same happen to your islands.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact 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. 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 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. 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 a) Noise and Light Pollution ● A HVDC converter station</p>

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769 OBJ	<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><b>The scale of this converter station (and projected windfarms and transmission infrastructure) is seriously disproportionate to its location remote from markets.</b></p> <p><b>It is without demonstrable and verifiable justification in terms of energy being generated and transmitted sustainably and economically without destruction of fragile ecosystems. It will destroy these ecosystems permanently.</b></p> <p><b>It is essentially a politically-driven speculative proposal.</b></p> <p><b>It is founded on transient false presuppositions regarding the actual natural sources of energy existing within the British Isles. Nuclear, oil, and gas are superior sources of sustainable, constant, reliable energy generation.</b></p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <p><b>The proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations, pose a significant threat to the local environment, and to the large populations of migratory birds (whooper swans, geese of several species, waders such as godwit, golden plover, curlew, green shank, etc.) which transit Lewis and Harris on their annual migrations to and from Greenland and Iceland. It should be noted that the proposed converter station and its associated infrastructure, including wind farms, pylons, and substations will lie across the migratory routes of almost the complete British populations of many of these species. Excavation, drainage, and construction required for this project would lead to permanent damage to vast areas of pristine peatlands, contradicting Scottish and British legal biodiversity commitments.</b></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> </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</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
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	<p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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	<p>continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
773 OBJ	<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>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,</p> <p>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> <p>There is no clear mitigation strategy for these impacts, making the proposal irresponsible and unviable.</p> <p>b) Strain on Local Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> <li>• The Stornoway area has limited infrastructure to support such an industrial project, yet there has been no clear assessment of how local services will be affected.</li> </ul>
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	<p>4. Planning Policy Violations &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Developments</p> <p>a) Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact</p> <p>This application fails to acknowledge the larger industrialisation plan for this area. The converter station is only one part of a wider network of developments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB) – 33 turbines, up to 180m in height</li> <li>• Proposed substations for the N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara wind farms</li> <li>• Multiple onshore windfarm substations</li> <li>• Onshore, near shore and off shore windfarms around Lewis</li> </ul> <p>Each project is being considered individually, which artificially reduces their perceived impact. This is a clear example of ‘salami slicing’, where a large development is broken into smaller applications to avoid proper scrutiny. This approach contradicts both national and local planning policies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Planning Policy (SPP), which states that “cumulative impacts must be fully assessed before determining major infrastructure projects.”</li> <li>• Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Local Development Plan, which seeks to protect natural and cultural heritage from inappropriate development.</li> </ul> <p>b) Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)</p> <p>Despite the massive scale of this proposal and its interconnection with multiple other industrial projects, a comprehensive EIA has not been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An EIA must be undertaken that considers the combined impact of this converter station and all associated developments before any decision is made.</li> <li>• Failure to do so would represent a significant procedural flaw, which could lead to legal challenges against the project.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>This proposal is fundamentally flawed and must be rejected on the basis of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Irreversible damage to peatlands, undermining Scotland’s climate and biodiversity commitments.</li> <li>2. Severe disruption to wildlife, including protected Red List species.</li> <li>3. Significant loss of residential amenity, due to noise, light pollution, and visual impact.</li> <li>4. Major infrastructure concerns, including road safety risks and strain on local services.</li> <li>5. Failure to properly assess the cumulative impact, violating planning policy.</li> <li>6. Lack of a full Environmental Impact Assessment, making the application incomplete and unreliable.</li> </ol> <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>
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	<p>development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>I refuse to allow the damage these monstrosities will cause to my homeland, without voicing my objections and my very real concerns. Not only will this affect many aspects of the environment, for example peatland, natural land habitats, oceanic habitats, but light and noise pollution must be taken into account also. The disruption and destruction to wildlife, the land and the ocean is not acceptable in any form!! Equally unacceptable is the threat and the impact this will have on the local infrastructure. Another aspect to be mentioned and very rarely broadcast or taken into account, is the devastation caused to the people...many of them young children, and the environment, of the countries where the earth minerals required to run the enormous magnets housed within these monstrosities, are mined. Absolutely devastating!</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul>
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	<p>Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility. 4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Conclusion Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>
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780 OBJ	<p>Apologies, this was originally forwarded to Highland Council who have just informed me that I had the wrong sender.</p> <p>Please confirm receipt of this email and ensure it is considered.</p> <p>We as a Highland community council <b>object</b> to the proposed 25/00061/PPPM HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity. We object in the strongest terms, understanding as a community council the stress and mental anguish such proposals let alone consented development like this have on people, tourism, location, flora and fauna. Such vast proposals ultimately seek to expand, this enables further industrialisation , creating wastelands, which were once preserved by custodians, who often feel silenced by the intimidation of big energy. NPF4 states policy outcomes, "natural places are protected and restored" neither can possibly take place. Adverse effects neglect to be monitored as areas of outstanding beauty are sacrificed for industry profits, not for the general good as touted. This proposal is a violation of human rights.</p> <p>Developers dictate degrees of "adverse effects" , they also dictate "mitigation" both terms are determined by industry not those impacted. The language used in this application and similar ones manipulates the reader into a false sense of minimal impact, restorative replenishment and community willing, all of which are wrong. The cumulative effect is consistently ignored as the fragmentation of applications slowly piece together over time, this is dishonest and cruel to communities and should not be highly questioned by planning regulation.</p> <p>This application has an enormous impact on our area, an enabler of yet more industrialisation. As pointed out by SSEN's Greg Clark at a local meeting in 2024, there is a great deal more planned for 2050 and this is just the beginning. Sites are selected for expansion purposes as a priority, not to minimise impact on communities, they are the collateral, please don't</p>

	<p>mistake lack of noise for lack of concern and fear.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets. ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area. ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks. ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby. ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made. Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
781 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Scottish wildlife habitats are lessening with each year as the population grows and we need to protect what we have. Our children and future generations will have less opportunity to live amongst and see wild native and protected species. Although I live out with the area, it is a place I have visited on many occasion and wish to see it preserved.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species</li> </ul>

	<p>and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
782 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I personally feel this proposal is not appropriate or well considered and will have a significant negative impact on the local area.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise</p>



	<p>and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>&gt;</p>
783 OBJ	<p>we are writing to formally object to the proposed development of the SSN HVDC converter station and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Arnish, Isle of Lewis. While we acknowledge the strategic importance of renewable energy and improvements to the national grid, we have deep concerns regarding the scale, location, and potential impact of this specific proposal on our environment and community.</p> <p>The proposed development site lies within a highly sensitive area near residential communities and valued natural landscapes. The visual impact of the large-scale converter station and BESS infrastructure would be substantial and, in our view, entirely inappropriate for a location that contributes significantly to the island's scenic character and cultural identity.</p> <p>Environmental concerns also weigh heavily in our objection. The development risks disturbing protected habitats and local wildlife, particularly in a region where conservation and biodiversity should be priorities. We urge a full and transparent environmental impact</p>

	<p>assessment, including consultation with relevant ecological bodies, to evaluate potential damage to land, air quality, and surrounding ecosystems. It must be highlighted that the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed development recognises significant adverse effects during both construction and operation of the HVDC converter station on the villages of Lower Sandwick and East Street Sandwick. Both villages are located within the Sandwick Community Council area. These acknowledged impacts further reinforce the unsuitability of the Arnish site and substantiate the concerns raised by residents regarding the project's long-term implications on daily life and wellbeing.</p> <p>In addition, we are deeply concerned about the undoubted damage this development could inflict on the Lews Castle Grounds and the Creed River. The Castle Grounds represent a mature and extensive woodland environment—the only significant woodland amenity in Stornoway—and are highly valued by both residents and visitors for recreation, health, and cultural heritage. The Creed River, which runs through these grounds, is renowned for its salmon fishing and is part of a delicate natural ecosystem that could be irreparably harmed by construction activity, increased runoff, pollution, or changes in land use. The proximity of the proposed converter station and related works poses a serious threat to both the ecological and amenity value of this cherished landscape.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project raises serious questions regarding local infrastructure capacity. The scale of construction will inevitably require a significant influx of external workers, yet the area currently lacks the housing, transport, and public service infrastructure needed to accommodate such a workforce. This could place additional pressure on already stretched local resources, disrupt community cohesion, and create longer-term challenges for residents in terms of access to services, accommodation, and roads.</p> <p>Travel to the island itself is already under pressure, with limited capacity on existing ferry and flight services. The additional demand posed by transporting a large workforce and construction materials to Lewis risks overwhelming these services, potentially causing significant disruption not just to the project area, but to the island. Residents already experience difficulties with ferry reliability and flight availability; the added burden could seriously affect daily life and island connectivity.</p> <p>In addition, we wish to raise concerns regarding light pollution associated with the proposed development. The Outer Hebrides are renowned for their dark skies, which are valued both by residents and visitors for their natural beauty and astronomical visibility. The introduction of extensive industrial lighting during construction and operation would significantly degrade this unique environmental quality, further altering the character of the area and reducing opportunities for dark-sky tourism and community enjoyment of the night environment.</p> <p>We are also deeply concerned about what appears to be a case of "salami slicing" in the planning and development-process. While the</p>
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	<p>current application focuses on the HVDC converter station and associated BESS, we understand that turbine companies will subsequently require the construction of additional battery storage infrastructure to connect to the SSEN converter. This segmented approach to planning obscures the true scale and cumulative impact of the development on the local area and prevents the community and decision-makers from evaluating the full extent of what is being proposed. It is imperative that the entire infrastructure footprint—including all dependent developments—is considered as a whole, rather than in isolated parts.</p> <p>We also wish to raise serious safety concerns, particularly in relation to the risk of fire at the HVDC converter station and associated battery storage. These types of facilities are known to pose complex fire risks, and our local fire service is not currently equipped to respond to large-scale or industrial fires of this nature. A major incident could have catastrophic consequences—not only for the site itself, but for the adjacent moorland, the Lews Castle Grounds, and potentially even the town of Stornoway. This</p> <p>risk is unacceptable in a location where containment and emergency response capabilities are limited.</p> <p>Moreover, there is significant concern within our community regarding the lack of meaningful public consultation and transparency in the planning process. Residents feel their voices have not been adequately heard or considered, and there is a perception that alternative locations, potentially more suitable and less intrusive, have not been sufficiently explored or disclosed.</p> <p>From a community perspective, the scale and industrial nature of the project are deeply unsettling. There is a real risk that this development would negatively affect the quality of life for nearby residents, reduce property values, and harm local tourism, which remains a key part of the island's economy.</p> <p>We urge the planning authorities and SSEN to reconsider the selection of Arnish as the proposed site and to engage in a more collaborative and open dialogue with the local community. Sustainable development must be balanced with genuine respect for the communities and landscapes it affects. In its current form, we do not believe this proposal meets that standard.</p> <p>We respectfully request that this objection be formally recorded and given due consideration as part of the planning review process. Should further consultations take place, the Sandwich Community Council would welcome the opportunity to participate constructively.</p>
784 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact,</p>

	<p>planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>Ultimately, this is a huge misstep.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
785 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>Please leave the untouched nature as it is. Lewis should stay as it is. Lots of wildlife, the dark sky with millions of stars to admire, Northern Lights. Please DO NOT RUINE this beautiful island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
786 OBJ	<p>I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p>

	<p>This is an environmentally damaging proposal dressed up as sustainable energy: it's greenwashing at best and deception at worst.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; 'Salami Slicing' of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
787 OBJ	<p>I am deeply concerned about the impact this proposal with have, and what it means for the future of the environment and of the people of the island.</p> <p>1. Environmental Impact</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Damage to Peatlands:</b> The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</li> <li>● <b>Disruption to Wildlife Habitat:</b> The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</li> </ul> <p>2. Impact on Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Noise &amp; Light Pollution:</b> A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</li> <li>● <b>Visual Impact:</b> The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</li> </ul> <p>3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Traffic &amp; Safety Issues:</b> The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</li> <li>● <b>Strain on Local Services:</b> Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</li> </ul> <p>4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact:</b> The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</li> <li>● <b>Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA):</b> The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</li> </ul> <p>Conclusion</p> <p>Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments.</p>
788 OBJ	<p>&gt; I write to object to the proposed HVDC converter station approximately 2km southwest of Stornoway in the vicinity of Macaulay Farm, on the basis of material planning considerations. The scale and location of this development raise serious concerns regarding environmental impact, planning policy, amenity, and infrastructure capacity.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; I don’t want our island to be littered with these giant ugly bits of metal. Furthermore, the financial benefits aren’t enough of a compensation for destroying our precious islands. I don’t want to be disturbed by the noise these turbines generate. This is a peaceful and harmonious place to live. Let’s keep it that way.</p> <p>&gt;</p>

	<p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 1. Environmental Impact</p> <p>&gt; ● Damage to Peatlands: The site is on carbon-rich peatland, a critical global carbon sink. Excavation, construction, and associated infrastructure (wind farms, pylons, substations) will lead to carbon release, undermining national and international climate targets.</p> <p>&gt; ● Disruption to Wildlife Habitat: The area is home to Red List bird species and other protected wildlife. Industrial-scale development, along with noise and artificial lighting, will have a significant detrimental impact.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 2. Impact on Amenity</p> <p>&gt; ● Noise &amp; Light Pollution: A converter station of this size will generate a continuous low-frequency hum and require 24-hour lighting, affecting the tranquillity of the surrounding area.</p> <p>&gt; ● Visual Impact: The proposed structure is industrial in nature, out of character with its rural setting, and will be highly visible from multiple viewpoints.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 3. Infrastructure &amp; Road Safety Concerns ● Traffic &amp; Safety Issues: The construction phase will bring heavy vehicle traffic to roads not designed for such loads, increasing safety risks.</p> <p>&gt; ● Strain on Local Services: Emergency services, drainage, and waste management systems may struggle to cope with the demands of this facility.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; 4. Planning Policy &amp; ‘Salami Slicing’ of Development ● Inadequate Consideration of Cumulative Impact: The converter station covers 285 hectares, an area equivalent to Stornoway or 399 football pitches. It is part of a larger industrialisation effort, including the 33-turbine Stornoway Wind Farm (EDF/ESB), and other proposed wind farms (e.g., N3 Talisk and N4 Spiorad na Mara), all of which are seeking onshore substations nearby.</p> <p>&gt; ● Failure to Conduct a Comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): The fragmented approval process fails to assess the full impact of multiple interconnected projects. A comprehensive EIA must be undertaken before any decision is made.</p> <p>&gt;</p> <p>&gt; Conclusion</p> <p>&gt; Given the serious environmental, amenity, and planning concerns, I urge Comhairle nan Eilean Siar to reject this proposal. The development threatens peatland integrity, protected wildlife, and local infrastructure while bypassing the necessary cumulative impact assessments</p>