



Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Sandwick Road Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS2 2BW

DATE

16th April 2025

SUBJECT

Proposal of Application Notice accompanying cover letter

Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm – onshore transmission infrastructure comprising electricity cables, electricity substations, and associated infrastructure including ancillary equipment, temporary construction compounds, landscaping, drainage, parking/servicing areas, cycle/multi-use pathway, peatland management access tracks and road alterations.

Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) submitted by Spiorad na Mara Limited, with revision of boundaries to reflect peat management areas and refinement of landfall options

Dear Sirs,

The proposed Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm (the Project) is set in an area approximately 5-13 kilometres off the west coast of the Isle of Lewis, with a potential expected capacity of around 900MW. The Project will connect to the electricity transmission network at the proposed Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) Converter Station located on land near Macaulay Farm, Stornoway.

Following feedback received during our public consultation events in September and October 2024, and subsequent feedback from stakeholders, the boundaries presented within the approved PAN (Ref24/00327/PAN) (the Original PAN) have been updated to refine the landfall option and to encompass additional land near Arnish identified as potentially suitable for peat management and restoration purposes. The Applicant also now intends to undertake further consultation that was not specified in the Original PAN.

Spiorad na Mara Limited is therefore submitting a new Proposal of Application Notice in respect of the Project. This replaces the existing PAN Reference 24/00327/PAN.

The Project comprises the construction and operation of the onshore transmission infrastructure associated with the Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm (National Development) to be located inland of the Mean Low Water Mark (MLWM), including:

- up to 12 cables exporting electricity from the offshore wind farm to transition joint bays (TJBs) at the proposed landfall located north east of Barvas on the west coast of the Isle of Lewis;
- up to 2 onshore substations being:
 - a Landfall Substation (if required) to be located close to the final selected landfall location and TJBs;
 - a Grid Substation located near the proposed SSEN Converter Station;
- 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Landfall Substation and subsequently to the Grid Substation, or (in the event that a Landfall Substation is not required) 2 export cable circuits linking the TJBs to the Grid Substation;

- 2 export cable circuits from the Grid Substation to the SSER Converter Station;
- peat management areas;
- associated infrastructure including (but not limited to):
 - temporary construction compounds;
 - landscaping;
 - drainage;
 - parking/servicing areas;
 - access tracks and road alterations; and
 - cycle/multi-use pathway.

A plan showing the extent of land included within the PAN boundary is attached.

Following construction, the only above-ground infrastructure will be the substation compound(s), any agreed cycle / multi-use pathways and associated access; all cables will be installed underground.

The onshore transmission infrastructure referred to above relates to a scoping direction issued by the Scottish Ministers on 29th May 2024. Offshore elements of the Project (i.e. those seaward of the Mean High Water Mark) will be the subject of a separate consenting process managed by the Marine Directorate – Licensing Operations Team (MD-LOT).

In June 2025 a second round of public consultation events will be held to provide an updated set of proposals for the proposed onshore transmission works and the Spiorad na Mara Offshore Wind Farm. These updated proposals will reflect the feedback received from stakeholders and the public during the September and October 2024 events and in subsequent engagements. Please see details below under the heading ‘Additional Consultation and Publicity’ of the consultation that has been carried out to date. The second round of public consultation will be held at the dates, times and locations below. The consultation events will provide an opportunity for the public and stakeholders to obtain updated information about, and to consider and comment on, the prospective application(s).

| Date | Location |
|--|---|
| Monday 2 nd June, 3pm – 7pm | Cabarfeidh Hotel, Stornoway |
| Tuesday 3 rd June, 12pm – 2pm | Clan MacQuarrie Centre, Borge, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RY |
| Tuesday 3 rd June, 4pm – 7pm | Barvas & Brue Community Centre, Barvas, Isle of Lewis HS2 0RA |
| Wednesday 4 th June, 3 – 7pm | Old School Shawbost, 43 N Shawbost, Isle of Lewis HS2 9BQ |
| Thursday 5 th June, 3 – 7pm | Uig Community Hall, Uig, Isle of Lewis |
| Monday 2 nd June – Wednesday 2 nd July | Virtual Exhibition online at www.spioradnamara.co.uk |
| Monday 9 th June – Friday 13 th June | Information clinic appointments |

Statutory newspaper notices relevant to the 2025 public events will be placed in the Stornoway Gazette on 22nd May 2025 (i.e. no less than seven days in advance of the first event). A draft version of the notice is attached for your information.

Copies of this updated PAN and accompanying plan outlining the site will be sent to the following parties:

| Ward Councilors | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Barraigh agus Bhatarsaigh | Kenneth Maclean Iain Macneil |
| Uibhist a Deas | Iain Macleod Paul Steele Susan Thomson |
| Uibhist a Tuath | Mustapha Hocine Uisdean Robertson |
| Na Hearadh | Paul Finnegan Kenneth Macleod |
| Sgìre Nan Loch | Angus Morrison Robert MacKenzie |
| Sgìr' Uige Agus Carlabhagh | Alasdair Fraser Norman MacDonald |
| An Taobh Siar Agus Nis | Donald MacSween John MacLeod Kenneth MacLeod |
| Loch a Tuath | Calum Maclean Donald Crichton John A MacIver |
| Steornabhagh a Tuath | Duncan Macinnes Gordon Murray Iain Macaulay Malcolm MacDonald |
| Steornabhagh a Deas | Angus McCormack Frances Murray George Murray Rae MacKenzie |
| Sgìre an Rubha | Norman Macdonald Finlay Stewart |
| Community Councils | |
| Airidhantuim | Roderick Martin |
| Back | Colin Thomson |
| Bernera | Mairi Madeleine Macaulay |
| Breasclete | Angus A MacKenzie |
| Carloway | Inga Benga Susanne Erbida |
| Kinloch | Iain M Maciver |
| North Lochs | Robert Mackenzie |
| Ness | David Green |
| North Tolsta | Innes Maciver |
| Pairc | Morris Black |
| Point | Ian Macaskill |
| Sandwick | Robert Walker |
| Shawbost | Donald Mackinnon |
| Uig | Sophie Brown |
| Stornoway | Robert S Doig |

| Parliamentary Representatives | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Holyrood | Alasdair Allan MSP |
| Westminster | Torcuil Crichton MP |

Additional consultation and publicity

In 2024 Sporad na Mara Limited held the first round of public consultation. Seven in-person consultation events and five 'information clinics' were held, covering both the offshore and onshore elements of the Project, at the following locations and hours:

| Consultation events | | Information clinics | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Date | Location | Date | Location |
| 24 th September 2024 | Clan MacQuarrie Centre, 3-8pm | 4 th October 2024 | An Lanntair, 4- 8pm |
| 25 th September 2024 | Barvas &Brue Community Centre, 3-8pm | 5 th October 2024 | Cabarfeidh Hotel, 10-2pm |
| 26 th September 2024 | Old School, Shawbost, 3-8pm | 7 th October 2024 | Raebhat House, Horshader, 5-9pm |
| 30 th September 2024 | Stornoway Town Hall, 3-8pm | 8 th October 2024 | Breasclete Community Centre, 9am-1pm |
| 1 st October 2024 | Carloway Community Centre, 3-8pm | 9 th October 2024 | Spòrsnis, 1-5pm |
| 2 nd October 2024 | Uig Community Hall, 3-8pm | | |
| 3 rd October 2024 | Bernera Community Centre, 3-8pm | | |

A virtual exhibition, hosted on the project website, <https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/>, was also open to the public as part of the consultation process, from 23rd September 2024 to 23rd October 2024.

Statutory newspaper notices relevant to the above public events were placed in the Stornoway Gazette on 5th September 2024 and Fios on 6th September 2024.

In addition, the Applicant carried out a booklet drop to all residential and business properties in the HS1 and HS2 postcode sectors, from 8th July 2024, outlining project updates and highlighting upcoming consultations. The Applicant carried out a second leaflet drop, in August 2024, to all residential and business properties in the HS1 and HS2 postcode areas, to make the public aware of the consultation events.

Statutory newspaper notices relevant to the public events were also placed in the P&J on the 13th August 2024 and The Stornoway Gazette on the 15th August 2024 to meet the requirements of the Marine Licensing (Pre-application Consultation) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 for the offshore elements of the Project, as both the offshore and onshore elements of the Project were the subject of consultation at the public events listed above. Further adverts, for the benefit of the public, were included in local newspapers and online platforms in the weeks leading up to the commencement of the consultation events.

The dedicated project website, <https://northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk/spiorad-na-mara/>, is also an ongoing source of information about the Project and is updated on a regular basis as the Project develops.

As well as these focused periods of consultation, the Project team commenced monthly community drop-ins throughout the summer of 2024 – June, July and August – at four different community venues each time, across the island. The purpose of these was to provide an opportunity for local people to meet the Project team, ask questions and offer feedback on the Project.

Two further community drop-ins were held in December 2024, another two were held in late April 2025 and there will be further drop-ins after the second phase of consultation. All drop-ins were, and in the case of those that are yet to take place, will be, advertised in local media and through local community networks in advance.

A final consultation event is proposed to be held prior to the submission of the application in late July or early August 2025. The dates of these events will be confirmed closer to the time. The final consultation event will be different in its emphasis and will focus on the changes introduced within this PAN.

We trust that the approach outlined above, along with the attached PAN, adequately fulfils the statutory requirements for pre-application consultation, without prejudice to the planning authority's obligations under the terms of Section 35(B)(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (as amended).

We look forward to receiving confirmation of receipt and validation of this PAN, and any response that the Council may have, within 21 days.

Should you have any queries or require further information, please contact us directly. Yours faithfully,

Fiona MacGregor

Fiona MacGregor
Onshore Consents Lead