



Please respond to:

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Ms Laura Carse  
Project Development Manager  
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Dear Laura

**PELAMIS SCOPING DOCUMENT: FARR POINT WAVE FARM DEVELOPMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your scoping document for the Farr Point Wave farm development.

The Dounreay Stakeholder Group is an independent body representing over 20 community organisations and provides the link between the Dounreay site activities and the community. As part of our remit socio economics for the Caithness and North Sutherland area is an important aspect of the DSG's interest.

In response to your questions in the scoping document:

- 1. Is the proposed phased approach to developing the site clear and does it appear an appropriate strategy for site development at this scale?**

*The proposed phased approach to development of the site is clear and appears to be appropriate.*

- 2. Are the operational principles of the technology and supporting infrastructure clear? If not, what other information would be beneficial?**

*Care should be taken when looking at the proposed landfill locations. The area relies heavily on tourism and recreation activities and your proposals may have a detrimental impact to these. When undertaking the options study please ensure that you engage with as many stakeholders as possible who are involved in tourism/ recreational activities.*

- 3. Have the proposed activities associated with installation, operation and maintenance been provided in sufficient detail? If not, what other information would be beneficial?**

*The DSG would like to see maintenance work carried out at existing port and harbour infrastructures. There is a highly skilled workforce in Caithness and North Sutherland that will be looking for alternative employment as the Dounreay site rundown and*

*there are many local companies who have the capabilities of carrying out all the maintenance and operational requirements.*

*Thought should also be given to the risks of mooring breakdowns, potential pollution events and should adhere to the OSPAR regulations.*

**4. Has the information regarding the baseline environment been suitably outlined to facilitate this Scoping Process?**

*Pilot and minke whales have been seen off the coasts and should be included.*

**5. Do the information gaps relating to the baseline information and the strategies outlined for addressing each seem appropriate?**

*Consideration should be given to users of sailing boats, sea kayaking, and surfers.*

**6. Have the potential key issues associated with the proposed development been identified?**

*It would be useful if consideration of the local skills base was given. The Chamber of Commerce, a member of the DSG, is an excellent source of information that can provide you with the area's supply chain capabilities.*

*As part of our support to the economic regeneration of the area we would urge that you ensure that a local control room is based in the area and feel there is no need for remote monitoring in Edinburgh. A local company is already looking at control rooms and we would urge you to enter into early discussions with them to maximise the benefit for the local area.*

*In addition, more detail on your projected maintenance requirements would be useful to allow local companies to position themselves to be able to respond to these requirements if appropriate.*

**7. Is the approach proposed for addressing each of these key issues suitable?**

*Visual impact minimisation should be considered when undertaking any activities that may impact on the landscape.*

*We also believe it would be useful if Pelamis entered into early discussions with the Chamber of Commerce to maximise benefits both for the local companies and for Pelamis. Our areas boasts a highly skilled workforce, committed to the area with low churn – therefore you would benefit from a loyal supply chain and would also assist in the regeneration initiatives being carried out by the Caithness & North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership.*

**8. Are the impact vectors and receptors identified appropriate for the analysis of potential cumulative effects?**

*Recreation users should be added to the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> table.*

**9. Are the types of cumulative effects that are described appropriate for a development of this type and scale?**

*Appears appropriate.*

**10. Is the stakeholder engagement strategy appropriate for a development of this type and scale?**

*The engagement needs to be inclusive and efforts by you will have to be made to ensure that you engage a wide variety of stakeholders from recreational users, tourism, harbours/ports, regeneration organisations, etc.*

**11. Are there other stakeholders that should be included within the strategy? If so, within which group?**

*Caithness and North Sutherland Regeneration Partnership  
Caithness Chamber of Commerce  
Community Councils (Bettyhill, Melvich, etc)  
High school students  
Thurso and Wick Trade Union Council  
Caithness Partnership Ltd?*

**12. Is the outline EIA methodology suitable for a development of this type and scale?**

*Appears to be reasonable.*

**13. Is the methodology proposed for the NRA appropriate for a development of this type and scale?**

*Appears to be reasonable.*

**14. Have the key potential marine safety issues been identified?**

*As in question 3.*

**15. Does the methodology used in the screening process seem robust and appropriate?**

*Nothing to add – appears reasonable.*

**16. Have the correct sites and species (i.e. Interests) been identified?**

*Appears reasonable – should include Minke whales.*

Yours sincerely

*June Love*

pp **Bob Earnshaw**  
Dounreay Stakeholder Group  
Chairman

