

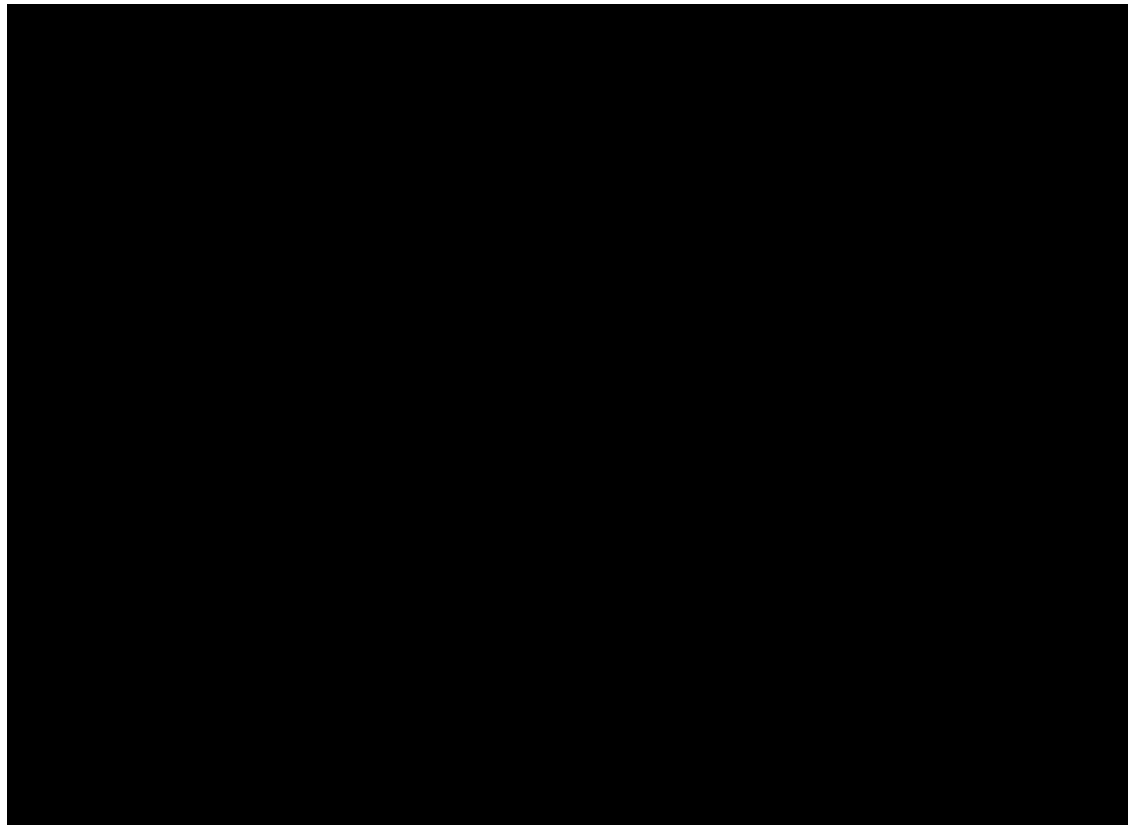
Inner Sound Tidal Array

Environmental Impact Assessment Socio-Economic, Tourism and Recreation Impact Assessment Method Statement

Purpose + Remit

The purpose and remit of these studies is to identify as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) the potential impacts of the Phase 1 development of the MeyGen Inner Sound tidal energy development upon the socio-economic structure and tourism and recreation facilities and activities, within the wider Caithness and surrounding area, and specifically within an area defined as 45km from the proposed site of the MeyGen Inner Sound Tidal Array and onshore infrastructure including Wick, Thurso John o' Groats and the intermediate area, and the Isle of Stroma and Orkney Isles.

The development is defined as including the offshore tidal array itself, cable connections to shore and also the onshore power conversion centre and grid connection infrastructure.



Overall scope of works

The overall scope of works for these assessments will be undertaken on the following basis and through the following stages:

- Baseline Assessment
- Consultations
- Assessment of direct, indirect, and residual impacts / effects

Baseline assessment

- Collection of baseline data and information setting the MeyGen Tidal Array in context at regional and local levels;
- Profiling of the Socio-Economic, and Tourism and Recreation circumstances, facilities, and activities in the area based upon publicly available sources of data and information, including demographic change; employment; unemployment; wage levels; economic sectoral emphasis, strengths and weaknesses; current circumstances, events, and proposals for development; and opportunities and threats in the area;
- Identification of the key issues experienced within the area, together with the key socio-economic and demographic trends and forecasts based upon publicly available sources of data and information; and
- These data and information will be derived from a mixture of published sources and also from the responses to consultations (see below).

Consultations

- Identification of key consultees and local stakeholders, which are able to provide data, and their views upon key issues in the area;
- Consultation letter sent to consultees informing them of the background, purpose and remit, scope of the assessments, and seeking data and their views upon key issues in the area, and also the method of approach taken;
- The consultations to be undertaken; and
- The responses of the consultees will be fed into both the baseline assessment and also contribute to the assessment of impact in terms of both quantitative and qualitative factors.

Assessment of Impact

- A Business Survey of both terrestrial and marine based tourism related business interests within the surrounding area will be undertaken to determine the business community's views of the potential impact of the MeyGen Tidal Array on both individual businesses and also on the local tourism economy, measured in terms of turnover, employment, investment, and levels of trade;
- A Business Supply Chain Survey of businesses within the study catchment will be undertaken to determine the business community's capacity and capability, and interest in participating in the construction, operation and maintenance and de-commissioning phases of the project;
- Reference will be made to comparative case study experience, and how such new development might / might not impact upon the development's local and wider context
- An assessment would be undertaken of the likely impacts upon users of recreational facilities within the area, and would be assessed on the basis of potential physical

disturbance to the users of or severance of the recreational resource, and visual impact of the proposals upon the users of the recreational resources;

- The impact assessment will analyse and address the potential socio-economic impacts, and tourism + recreation impacts, and draw key conclusions for each;
- The assessment will propose potential mitigation measures to address any identified adverse impacts of the proposed MeyGen Tidal Array development; and
- The output of the assessment will be a statement of residual socio-economic, and tourism and recreation impacts / effects, based upon a range of impact evaluation criteria, and specifying such impacts in terms of major, moderate, minor negative or positive, and no impact predicted.

Contact details

If you would like to provide input to or find out more about the socio economic impact assessment please contact Roger Tym and Partners who are undertaking this work:

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