



# Skye - Ornsay Underground Cable Construction Environmental Management Plan

## Revision History

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Project Background

This Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) covers general environmental management requirements and best practice relating from the construction works on the Skye - Ornsay Underground Cable Replacement project and has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of good and best practice environmental management.

### 1.2 Purpose of the Plan

The principal aims of this Construction Environmental Management Plan are the protection and conservation of the natural and historic environment and users of that environment within and neighbouring the proposed development area during construction. Further, it defines outline landscape / habitat restoration proposals.

Please note that this CEMP is a live document and should be updated and reviewed as new constraints are identified or as changes are made to requirements, commitments, mitigation, or other aspects of the project.

### 1.3 Abbreviations

<b>Text</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>
Construction Environmental Management Plan	CEMP
Mean High Water Springs	MHWS
Mean Low Water Springs	MLWS
SHE Power Distribution	SHEPD
Heavy Goods Vehicle	HGV
McGowan Environmental Engineering Ltd	McGowan
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency	SEPA
Risk Assessment Method Statement	RAMS
Key Performance Indicators	KPIs
Guidance for Pollution Prevention	GPP
General Binding Rules	GBR
Pollution Prevention Guidance	PPG
Control of Substances Hazardous to Health	COSHH
Private Water Supply	PWS
Site Waste Management Plan	SWMP
Groundwater Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems	GWDTE
European Protected Species	EPS

## 2 Project Description

### 2.1 Project Summary

Works on the Skye - Ornsay Underground Cable Replacement project involve the installation of circa 800m of underground cable (11kV TATA 1113, 3 core armoured, stranded aluminium conductor) between Skye and Ornsay as shown on Figure 1, the project will require both open cut and cable ploughing to be used in appropriate sections, see photographs (Figure 6). The works will involve activities above and below Mean High-Water Springs (MHWS).

Access to the route will be via available access routes – across the beach in the tidal zone or around the edge.

The construction compound and welfare will be located within a groundhog and associated bowser above the high tide line adjacent to the cable route.

Please note that this scope of works does not include for the decommissioning or removal of the existing cable which is currently in situ although this will need to be cut to allow installation of the new cable via cable plough.

McGowan Environmental Engineering Ltd (McGowan) will cross the redundant cable up to 3 times during installation of the new cable. It should be noted that the most likely option will be to simply cut the cable and plough through, however there may be a need to remove a section at each location circa 1m long.

Please also note that all timescales stated within this CEMP are based on the nominal time expected to complete the task and that these timescales may change based on weather, tidal influences, ground conditions encountered and other potentially impacting aspects.

See appended drawings (Figure 1, Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4, and Figure 5) to show the site location, underground cable route (ploughed and open cut plus working width) and the compound and lay down areas, also see Figure 6 for photographs of the proposed route and Figure 7 for photographs of some of the plant to be used.

### 2.2 Key Environmental Constraints

This Construction Environmental Management Plan covers the following subject areas and key environmental constraints:

- Site activities throughout the project with all requirements to be assessed and mitigated where appropriate;
- Water management across the project area including all site areas and compounds including the beach, tidal zone, and headland;
- Pollution prevention and control measures to ensure compliance with requirements and best practice;
- Waste and materials management across the project to ensure that best practice is implemented and that all waste materials are limited initially then if required are disposed of or recycled in the most sustainable manner;
- Noise, Vibration and Air Quality control measures to ensure that nuisance factors are limited; and

- Ecology control measures to ensure that appropriate surveys are completed, and mitigation is implemented across the project;
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage review to ensure that all significant sites have been identified and appropriate mitigation has been implemented at all times, and
- Unexploded Ordnance review to assess the likelihood and risk of historic ordnance being present within the works area.

### 2.3 Construction Methodologies

The full process for the Construction of the Skye - Ornsay Underground Cable will include the following elements:

- Preconstruction survey (where required) and assessment (ecology, archaeology, UXO, water management, soils management etc).
- Production of a Construction Environmental Management Plan (this document) to assess potential for environmental issues and impacts and detail proposed mitigation (various forms) to limit and where possible remove that potential.
- Application (SHE Power Distribution (SHEPD)) for marine licence.
- Granting of marine licence.
- Installation / implementation of appropriate mitigation as required by marine licence, best practice or legislation prior to works starting.
- Cable track excavation (by hand or machine), the depth of which is dependent on the soil type etc but will be to a minimum requirement as detailed at landfall on both sides (see photos below).



Photographs of Open Cut Sections (Landfall)

- Soils separation with all soil types being separated and kept for re use post completion of cable installation.
- Preinstall preparation along the cable route on beach (above and below MHWS) – removal of any constraints and obstacles (above installation level) within the cable

route (rock outcrops etc by excavation or breaking out) to allow installation in one low tide.

- Agreement on crossing methodology for existing services which cross the cable route.
- Ploughed install with instant reinstatement of cable across beach (between the MHWS and the MLWS) area (670m) at low tide – to be done in one low tide (if possible) (photo below)



Photograph of Cable Plough Section Across Bay

- Installation of cable along the open lengths of open cut track.
- Installation of joint bays (at either end of the cable track).
- Reinstatement of cable track route using materials / soils excavated being reinstated in reverse order of excavation and turves placed on top.
- Reinstatement of joint bay locations using materials / soils excavated being reinstated in reverse order of excavation and turves placed on top.
- Reinstatement of whole section using low impact tracked excavators to reinstate access routes.
- Monitoring of reinstatement and regeneration to ensure that appropriate measures have been taken.

Works are to proceed in three sections (two open cut and one cable plough) between joint bays to limit soils / sands / beach which are exposed at any one time.

Please note that the section across the beach (670m in length) will be completed by cable plough during one low tide period with preparation for this taking place across the beach area in the days before (obstacles including rock and existing services).

Due to the extensive preparation works which will take place it is not expected that the above will constitute any issues as the full route to be ploughed will be cleared of obstacles and the agreed crossing methodology for existing services which cross the cable route will be implemented prior to installation taking place.

The majority of works on this project are between the MHWS and the MLWS on the beach with only the landfall areas being open during high tide events.

Works are to proceed in limited areas to enable controls to be implemented including silt fencing between working areas and watercourses where appropriate.

Temporary stockpiles will be no higher than 2m and will be placed 10m away from any watercourse. Reinstatement of worked (excavated) areas will be completed as soon as possible after installation works are complete to allow vegetation to re-establish as quickly as possible.

Reinstatement of the area between the MHWS and the MLWS (by tracked excavator behind the plough) will happen immediately as the cable plough moves across the zone followed by a widespread excavator to facilitate reinstatement.

## 2.4 Working Hours

Construction work which is audible from any noise-sensitive receptor shall only take place between the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 Monday to Friday and 07.00 to 16.00 Saturday.

No construction works will take place on a Sunday or Public Holiday with any required 24 hour working / 7 day working to be agreed with the local authority prior to works taking place.

Out with these specified hours, works on the site shall be limited to maintenance, emergency works, dust suppression, and the testing of plant and equipment.

If required, HGV movements to and from the site (excluding abnormal loads) during construction shall be limited to 07.00 to 19.00 Monday to Friday, and 07.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays, with no HGV movements to or from site taking place on a Sunday or on national public holidays.

## 2.5 Current Programme

The current expected timescales (estimated at this time) for the project are as follows:

- Mobilisation to site – mid June 2023
- Construction Start – Mid July 2023
- Construction Complete – Mid August 2023

It should be noted that these timings may change prior to start due to the requirement for other aspects (Marine Licence, Wayleaves etc) being complete prior to works being able to commence.

## 2.6 Legislative Requirements

McGowan Environmental Engineering Ltd (McGowan) will be aware of and comply with all legal obligations with regard to control of pollution (including but not limited to air, water, and ground) as well as the legislation and all regulations relating to waste and the protection of wildlife, and the environment as detailed within the tender documentation received.

McGowan are an ISO14001 accredited Contractor and will comply with all requirements stipulated by this accreditation across the project in terms of environmental best practice.

## 2.7 Consents and Permissions Required

This project comes under the Permitted Development rights for SHEPD under the Electricity Act 1989 so does not require planning permission in this case.

This project (due to its location between the MHWS and the MLWS) will require a Marine Licence from Marine Scotland prior to works taking place with all requirements and conditions associated with the licence being adhered to at all times.

2.7.1 Project Commitments

As part of the contract requirements McGowan is required to comply with the project commitments (where relevant) as detailed within the tender and contract information, this has been completed as detailed below:

Commitment Section	Details	Discharged	Comments
General (G)	<p>Works to be completed in line with general requirements (working hours, compliance with GEMPs, SSE Species Protection Plans (SPPs) (see Appendix 7) and this CEMP)</p> <p>Environmental Compliance – ALL parties have the power to stop works</p> <p>Environmental Requirements – to be delivered and communicated via Toolbox Talks, Site Induction and Environmental Manager interaction</p> <p>Reinstatement requirements detailed</p>	Yes	Detailed within CEMP
Ecology (E) and Ornithology (O)	<p>Pollution control measures to be in line with best practise</p> <p>GWDTE or very wet areas (below MHWS) to be assessed with regards to potential for impacts and appropriate mitigation implemented</p> <p>Other sensitive habitats to be avoided where possible and where not possible, limited access and appropriate mitigation</p> <p>Number of vehicle movements kept to a minimum</p> <p>Reinstatement to be completed as soon as possible to limit impacts</p> <p>Pre and during construction surveys to be completed where appropriate and findings briefed to all staff</p> <p>Works to be completed in line with SSE SPPs for specific species if identified on site</p> <p>Speed restrictions to be in place</p>	Yes	Detailed within CEMP

	<p>30m buffer between watercourses and works to be implemented where possible</p> <p>Spill response kits will be available at all times in vehicles, in welfare areas and at re fuelling locations – staff will all be trained in their use</p>		
Cultural Heritage (CH)	Scheduled and other identified sites to be protected or assessed in line with requirements	Yes	Detailed within CEMP
Hydrology (HG)	<p>Pollution control measures to be in line with best practise</p> <p>Works to be completed in line with relevant PPG and GPP guidance and this CEMP</p> <p>Water (surface and ground) to be managed in line with best practice and requirements detailed in this CEMP</p>	Yes	Detailed within CEMP

### 2.7.2 Correspondence and Commitments Table

The table below is for commitments made during the construction process and details those requirements to be dealt with as part of those commitments:

Commitment	Details / Correspondence	Comments

### 2.7.3 Marine Licence - Conditions

The following conditions have been placed on the Marine Licence Ref:?? (To be inserted once Marine Licence has been gained (SHEPD)):

Condition	Requirements	Mitigation

Conditions, Requirements and Mitigation to be added once Marine Licence is in place.

### 3 Project Environmental Management

#### 3.1 Environmental Personnel

##### 3.1.1 Environment Team Structure

The Environmental Manager (Chris Meek) will be in control of all environmental aspects for the project with support from the whole site and support team within McGowan and other specialists who will be employed as required to complete surveys or assessments in a timeous manner.

Below is detailed the contact details for all pertinent members of the project team:

Role	Name	Contact Number
McGowan Project Manager (Design Phase)	Derek Mackay	██████████
McGowan Contracts Manager (Construction Phase)	Darren Hendry	██████████
McGowan Project Manager (Construction Phase)	Douglas Munro	██████████
McGowan Site Supervisor (Construction Phase)	TBC	TBC
McGowan Health and Safety Manager (Both Phases)	Brian Elliot	██████████
Environmental Manager (Both Phases)	Chris Meek	██████████

### 3.1.2 SHEPD Team Structure

Below is detailed the contact details for all pertinent members of the project team:

SHEPD Role		Name	Contact Details
Project Manager		Kevin Wilson	<a href="mailto:kevin.1.wilson@sse.com">kevin.1.wilson@sse.com</a> T: +44 1738 341968 M: [REDACTED]
SHE (Safety Health Environment)		Paul Webster	<a href="mailto:Paul.webster@sse.com">Paul.webster@sse.com</a> M: [REDACTED] T: 01738 342450
Environmental Manager (land)		Katy Urquhart	<a href="mailto:Katy.urquhart@sse.com">Katy.urquhart@sse.com</a> M: [REDACTED]
Lead Marine Consents Manager (Marine)		Robin Burnett	<a href="mailto:Robin.burnett@sse.com">Robin.burnett@sse.com</a> T: +44 (0)1738 342470 M: +44 [REDACTED]
Wayleaves Officer		Gavin Carswell	<a href="mailto:Gavin.carswell@sse.com">Gavin.carswell@sse.com</a> M: [REDACTED]
Site Supervisor		Kevin Wilson	<a href="mailto:kevin.1.wilson@sse.com">kevin.1.wilson@sse.com</a> T: +44 1738 341968 M: [REDACTED]
Engineering	Design Manager Lead Design	Iain Henderson  Peter McGrath	<a href="mailto:Iain.Henderson@sse.com">Iain.Henderson@sse.com</a> M: [REDACTED] <a href="mailto:Peter.McGrath2@sse.com">Peter.McGrath2@sse.com</a> T: 01738 275887 M: [REDACTED]

### 3.1.3 Roles and Responsibilities

Within the project requirements the following are listed as requirements for delivery by the Environmental Manager or Environmental Team:

- Production of a site-specific CEMP including all information required for the marine licence application (SHEPD to apply);
- Support to SHEPD team in marine licence application process;
- Environmental representative on site taking a proactive approach to the environmental management of the site;
- Key interface point for the SHEPD Project Team;

- Environmental reporting, inclusive of environmental incident reporting;
- Closing out any environmental corrective actions and non-compliance from audits/inspections;
- Development of any environmental lessons learnt and roll out to team;
- Engage and manage specialist sub-contractors/consultants as per the requirements of consents/licenses, contract, and CEMP;
- Implement and monitor compliance with all environmental and nature conservation mitigation works and working practises identified in consents/licenses, CEMP, and the McGowan Environmental Management Systems;
- Attendance at site meetings where necessary;
- Attendance at stakeholder meetings where necessary;
- Ensure that McGowan are aware of project specific environmental constraints;
- Liaise with SHEPD Project Team and stakeholders, regarding project specific environmental management issues and lead on finding solutions to these issues;
- Develop the environmental programme (including site surveys) for incorporation into the wider works programme and site look ahead programmes and ensure it is delivered and updated as required;
- Review and provide environmental input to RAMS;
- Apply for environmental licences or consents defined as McGowan responsibility and ensure any conditions are adhered to;
- Undertake inspections / audits, disseminate findings as corrective actions and/or non-conformance and lead on their close-out.
- Review this CEMP throughout the works to ensure compliance between consents/licenses, CEMP, and activities on site;
- Provide weekly report on environmental works on site, inclusive of programme updates;
- Provide training (including induction and Toolbox Talks) to ensure works are undertaken in strict accordance with environmental requirements defined in consents/licenses and this CEMP.

It should be noted that elements of these requirements will be delegated by the Environmental Manager and delivered by other members of the project team on a daily or regular basis as required.

This delegation process, where it takes place, will be managed at all times by the Environmental Manager.

### 3.2 Environmental Innovation and Sustainability

The McGowan project team and the Environmental Manager (Chris Meek) will look at all aspects of the project as it proceeds to ensure that every opportunity to innovate and increase sustainability across the project is taken where possible.

### 3.3 Consents and Environmental Programme

The consent and survey requirements (apart from the need for a Marine Licence) for this project are limited due to the requirements, nature, location, and timing of the project.

However, the Environmental Manager (Chris Meek) will review all aspects of the project programme and requirements to ensure that appropriate consents and surveys are completed at the right time to ensure requirements or mitigation can be implemented prior to works proceeding.

Aspects of the project are being completed under SHEPD Permitted Development Rights, so no planning permission is required. However, a Marine Licence is required for all works carried out below the MHWS which could impact on the marine environment.

The licence is being applied for by SHEPD with support from the Environmental Manager and wider team.

No works will take place within the marine environment until the Marine Licence has been gained and any requirements or conditions associated have been implemented and discharged.

## 4 Environmental Policies and Procedures

### 4.1 General

McGowan will be aware of and comply with all legal obligations with regard to control of pollution (including but not limited to air, water, and ground) as well as the legislation and all regulations relating to waste and the protection of wildlife, and the environment.

McGowan are an ISO14001 accredited Contractor and will comply with all requirements stipulated by this accreditation across the project in terms of environmental best practice.

McGowan will adhere to the following Six Environmental Ground Rules:

#### **Keep a Tidy Site**

- Maintain a clean, tidy, and secure site.
- Minimise and segregate waste for re-use and recycling.
- Reinststate works areas promptly.

#### **Prevent Silty Run-Off**

- Keep clean and silty water separate.
- Settle all silty water before leaving site.
- Ensure site drainage is properly designed and maintained.

#### **Contain Oil and Fuel**

- Store fuel and oil in bunded containers.
- Ensure spill kits are available.
- Use plant nappies on mobile plant.

#### **Respect Wildlife**

- Be aware of local wildlife.
- Adhere to exclusion zones.

#### **Assess Environmental Risks**

- Assess the environmental risk of all activities.
- If in doubt, ask.

#### **Report Incidents**

- Report ALL environmental incidents.
- Pass on learning for future works.

## 5 Communications and Training Plan

### 5.1 Environmental Reporting

McGowan will present a monthly report to SHEPD detailing progress on all aspects of the project including Environmental performance with regards to requirements and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

As part of this the Environmental Manager will undertake regular audits / visits on the project, records will be kept of all monitoring or audit visits and provided as part of the monthly reporting with actions being documented and discharged in appropriate timescales.

### 5.2 Key Performance Indicators

McGowan will present a monthly report to SHEPD detailing progress on all aspects of the project including Environmental performance with regards to requirements and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

KPIs with regards to environmental performance will be as follows:

- Environmental Incidents / Near Misses – Target 0 per month
- Environmental Audit Scores – Target 100% per month
- Environmental Toolbox Talks Delivered – Target 2 per month

### 5.3 Environmental Communications

The Environmental Manager will manage all environmental requirements on site as detailed within this document and will be on site when required but a minimum of once every week (requirements can vary depending upon site works ongoing and requirements associated).

The Environmental Manager will have the power to stop works or activities should they feel that a breach or potential breach of mitigation or legislation has or could occur. Please note that this also applies to all personnel on site should they feel that an environmental breach may be occurring.

Key environmental issues, including SHEPD's environmental ground rules, will be communicated to all site personnel as part of their site induction.

### 5.4 Environmental Training

All McGowan staff are trained in the use of spill kits.

A minimum of two environmental aspect specific toolbox talks will be delivered to site staff per month, this will be documented and chosen for their relevance to site works ongoing or in the future.

Other training will be delivered on an, as required, basis with subjects and aspects identified as part of ongoing works and training to be relevant to current work stages and requirements.

Please note that environmental requirements for the project will also be detailed in the site induction to ensure that all parties are aware before they start works on site.

## 6 Environmental Auditing and Monitoring Plan

### 6.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The Environmental Manager will be on site at least once per week and will complete a minimum of two audits per month on the project, records will be kept of all monitoring or audit visits and provided to the project team with actions being documented and discharged in appropriate timescales.

McGowan, through their Environmental Manager, will be aware of and comply with all legal obligations with regard to control of pollution (including but not limited to air, water, and ground) as well as the legislation and all regulations relating to waste and the protection of wildlife, and the environment.

The Environmental Manager (and all staff on site) has the power to “stop the works” should they deem a situation in breach of environmental legislation or have the potential for a negative effect on the environment.

### 6.2 Environmental Management System Requirements

McGowan are an ISO14001 accredited Contractor and will comply with all requirements stipulated by this accreditation across the project in terms of environmental best practice.

### 6.3 Project Environmental Auditing and Monitoring Requirements

The Environmental Manager will be on site at least once per week and will complete a minimum of two audits per month on the project, records will be kept of all monitoring or audit visits and provided to the project team with actions being documented and discharged in appropriate timescales.

Any other monitoring which is identified as being required as part of the project will be identified as early as possible via the project programme and implemented as a matter of course through the project deliverables and managed by the Environmental Manager.

### 6.4 Audit and Monitoring Reporting Procedure

The Environmental Manager will be on site at least once per week and will complete a minimum of two audits per month on the project, records will be kept of all monitoring or audit visits and provided to the project team with actions being documented and discharged in appropriate timescales.

Actions from audits and other non-compliance requirements will be discussed with the McGowan Site Manager and the SHEPD Site Manager before the Environmental Manager leaves site with agreed timescales for discharge detailed within the audit report.

Audits undertaken, scores achieved and the status of any actions arising will be emailed to the project team in a timeous manner, will be included in monthly performance reports to SHEPD and will be available for audit / review at any time.

## 6.5 Non-Compliance Procedure

Any non-compliances arising will be investigated by the McGowan Site Manager and / or Environmental Manager with any necessary corrective actions discussed, assessed, and agreed with relevant personnel.

Timing for discharge of any corrective actions will be agreed before the Environmental Manager leaves site. If not possible to discharge within the agreed timescales, this will be reported and discussed with new timescales agreed by all relevant parties.

All relevant documents, e.g. method statements and / or this CEMP, will be reviewed, updated, and communicated, as necessary.

Outstanding and discharged actions will form part of the monthly report and audits reports will be kept on site and be available for review at any time.

## 7 Emergency Response Plan

### 7.1 Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the emergency response plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Staff will be trained on the requirements with exercises being completed where appropriate.

Specific delivery requirements, ensuring training has been received and making sure that appropriate equipment is available are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### 7.2 Types of Hazards and Control Measures

#### **Plant Checks and Operation**

The following plant will be utilised for the project:

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Activity</b>
1	Landing Craft - Ferguson Marine Carly (or similar)	Delivery and collection of plant and equipment between Kyle and Isle Ornsay
2	14t tracked excavator	Advanced excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion
3	20t tracked excavator	Advance excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion
4	Hydraulic Breaker for mounting on excavator	Advance excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion
5	Groundhog Welfare Unit	Welfare
6	3000l fuel bowser – fully (110%) bunded	Fuel bunker for duration of works
7	Föckersperger FWF 82 Winch Tractor	Winching cable plough
8	Föckersperger FSP 22 Spider Plough	Cable ploughing
9	Caterpillar D5H Crawler	Pulling drum trailer
10	Drum Trailer – bespoke	Carrying cable drum
11	LGV (x3)	Transport personnel from accommodation to site

Plant on site will be kept to the minimum required to deliver the project and all plant will be checked on a daily basis with any identified leaks fixed immediately or plant removed from the project.

All plant will have spill kits with them at all times, these kits will be checked on a daily basis and any used items will be replaced immediately from stored spares in the compound.

All plant when not in use will be stored on plant nappies (where possible – does not apply to 1, 5, 10 and 11 above), plant will have its own allocated nappy which, if used and no longer able to function, will be replaced.

Plant stored overnight on site will be kept to the minimum required for works and at least 30m from any watercourse, out with any flooding area and not between the MHWS and the MLWS (or beach in this case). Should this not be possible the plant storage location will be agreed in advance with the Environmental Manager and appropriate mitigation installed to protect the environment.

### **Fuel Storage and Refuelling**

Clearly defined areas for the storage of oil and fuel will be identified as part of the site establishment process within the site compound.

On-site storage of oil and fuels will be avoided if possible; where temporary on-site storage is required, the volumes to be stored should be minimised as far as practical through efficient management of deliveries, plant, and planning of works.

Refuelling will take place at the site compound where possible however, due to the type of project this may not always be possible.

Fuel will be stored in accordance with GPP2, in bunded fuel cubes / tanks at the site compound or at a designated area at the work site. In either case, storage- and re-fuelling locations will be >30m from any watercourses and plant nappies and spill kits will be in place.

Re-fuelling will be supervised and undertaken in line with McGowan RAMS and GBRs 26, 27 and 28, GPP2 and PPG7 in compliance with the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR Regs).

Plant nappies will be placed under all items of plant when not in use.

Minimal quantities of oils will be stored at the site compound, on drip trays and in a locked storage area with appropriate spill kit(s) available at the site compound.

McGowan uses biodegradable hydraulic oil in major items of construction plant i.e. excavators and lorry mounted cranes

Spill kits will be available at all storage and re-fuelling areas and in all plant, (mobile and static), and vehicles on site. These will be sized appropriately for the plant and equipment to be used on site.

Any hazardous materials will be stored in a secure labelled COSHH cabinet and a list of these should be kept on site.

In line with the SHEPD project requirements, storage of such materials and any refuelling activities will, where possible, be located a minimum of 30m away from any watercourse and out with any flood zones.

### **Private Water Supplies**

McGowan understand that there is one Private Water Supplies (PWS) in proximity to the cable route at this time (see Figure 4), this is a supply to the house on Ornsay and will need to be crossed by the cable route.

Prior to works starting:

- the owners of the PWS will be contacted by the Environmental Manager to ascertain as much information about the supply as possible (location, type of supply, treatment, type of pipe, history, reliability etc) to allow protection measures to be planned and implemented to safeguard the infrastructure,
- the PWS location (including any known pipework etc) will be marked on the ground and all of the McGowan site team will be made aware of the requirements,
- access routes and plant requirements to any potentially affected works areas will then be assessed with access routes and works planned to remove (or at the very least reduce) impact potential where possible,
- potential for impacts from works will be assessed by the Environmental Manager prior to any works happening or access being taken and
- the PWS location and associated infrastructure will be monitored for impacts during works with works stopped and any impacts mitigated immediately they are realised

Should the works scope change or McGowan or the project team be made aware of any further previously unidentified PWS during the works, a risk assessment of potential impacts on the PWS will be undertaken and the appropriate mitigation detailed above will be put in place immediately to protect the supply at all times.

Due to the type of proposed works it is generally not expected that there will be any impact on any identified PWS from the activities required.

### **Pipeline / Cable Crossings**

One cable crossing (telecoms) has been identified along the route at this time (see Figure 4).

Potential for impacts on the cable crossing will be assessed and the following mitigation will be put in place where required:

- The location of the cable will be identified and marked on the ground
- Access routes will then be assessed with works planned to remove impact potential.
- Potential for impacts from works will be assessed by the Environmental Manager prior to any works happening or access being taken.
- The location and associated infrastructure will be monitored for impacts during works with works stopped and any impacts mitigated immediately they are realised.

### **Water Crossings**

Watercourse crossings for access will utilise existing access tracks (or roads in this case), where possible this will be where crossing points are already in situ and require no further works to ensure suitability.

Once access routes have been confirmed, water crossing requirements will be assessed in advance of works with regards to compliance with the Water Environment (Controlled

Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR Regs) and any required authorisations will be gained prior to works progressing.

### **Ecology**

Monitoring by the Environmental Manager and appropriate others will be undertaken throughout the construction phase to ensure compliance with all mitigation, environmental commitments, and other requirements (including the Marine Licence).

Pre-construction surveys have been completed (see Appendix 3 and Section 13) in November 2022 and will be completed where identified as necessary prior to works starting to provide up to date information (for the Marine Licence and for the Construction Works) with regards to protected species on site, mitigation, and the associated requirements for construction compliance – please see Ecology section (Section 13) and Appendix 3 for further information on current requirements at time of CEMP production.

CEMP to be updated with construction requirements post pre works survey.

Works in areas where constraints are identified will be in line with site or aspect specific risk assessments as appropriate. Construction methodology will minimise disturbance to all sensitive habitats by micro-siting temporary access routes and cable locations to avoid sensitive areas where possible.

If construction takes place during the breeding bird season (April – July inclusive) a pre-construction breeding bird survey will be carried out at an appropriate time of year to inform micro-siting of works, accesses, lay down areas and other construction aspects which have the potential to impact.

No construction would take place within the vicinity of a known nest site during the breeding bird season (April - July) unless:

- It has been possible to discourage bird nesting, or
- it has been shown via risk assessment that no impacts will be seen (monitoring may be required to confirm this), or
- where pre-construction surveys have indicated that no birds are nesting.

Should any nesting birds be identified during the pre-construction surveys or after construction has begun the nest site will be protected by marking of an appropriate buffer zone as agreed with the Environmental Manager and a risk assessment will be carried out to assess potential for impacts from activities.

### **Wet Areas / Tidal Zone**

McGowan are aware that wet areas exist along the cable route (where the route is between the MHWS and the MLWS in particular).

Required routes will be reviewed in advance with only low ground pressure (where possible) plant which is specifically required for construction works allowed to access the areas, works will be completed as quickly as possible to reduce impacts further.

Once routes have been confirmed, mitigation requirements will be assessed and implemented with monitoring completed during works to ensure that any impacts are limited and removed where possible.

Works between the MHWS and the MLWS will be as limited as possible but will include the following:

- removal of constraints and obstacles on cable route
  - works will only take place at low tide – timescales will depend on obstacles found
  - plant to be checked daily with any issues to be dealt with immediately as per plant checks and operations above
- installation of the cable
  - works will only take place at lower tides
  - works to be completed within one lower tide if possible
  - plant to be checked daily with any issues to be dealt with immediately as per plant checks and operations above

## 7.3 Emergency Response Process

### Spill Response

All site staff will be trained in how to use a spill kit.

For plant/equipment leaks and spills:

- STOP WORK immediately
- Remove all sources of ignition (if substance is flammable)
- Put on appropriate PPE
- STOP the spill at source
- CONTAIN the spill using spill kit
- PROTECT sensitive areas using spill kit booms – including water courses and identified sensitive ecology
- Contact the site supervisor and advise of action taken
- Call the SHEPD 30-minute reporting line to register the incident
- Clean up the spill and any affected ground using spill kit
- Dispose of waste appropriately (segregate for disposal as Special Waste)
- Replenish any spill materials utilised

This spill response procedure will be posted in all staff welfare facilities.

### Other Environmental Incidents

Site operatives will be given a toolbox talk with respect to possible environmental incidents that may arise during the works; these may include:

- Flooding;
- Generation of excessive dust or noise resulting in nuisance issues and possible third-party complaints;
- Damage to trees or habitat outside the wayleave or agreed access routes;
- Discovery of archaeological or historic remains;
- Soft ground and possible sinking;
- A near miss that could have resulted in an incident.

**All environmental incidents will be reported immediately to the Environmental Manager: Chris Meek Tel: [REDACTED] Email: cnocee@outlook.com.**

## 7.4 Hazard and Incident Reporting Procedure

Any environmental hazards and / or environmental incidents which occur will be dealt with as per the response plan above (7.3) with a full investigation being completed by appropriate members of the project team and reported as agreed.

Any learning from incidents will be communicated to the entire project team in a pre-agreed appropriate manner to ensure that lessons learned are included within future activities and projects. The Environmental Manager will manage this.

All relevant documentation will be reviewed, updated, and communicated as necessary following any incident.

## 7.5 SHEPD Incident Management, Reporting and Investigation

All employees, contractors and subcontractors working on the project shall report all accidents, incidents and hazards through their line manager or supervisor in line with the SHEPD procedure for Incident Management Reporting and Investigation MS-SHE-010.

In addition to this, and in line with REF-PS-SHE-COM-015, all 'Safety, Health, and Environment (SHE) incidents' incurred when working on behalf of SHEPD shall be reported to our 30-minute line (0800 107 3207) within 30 minutes of the incident occurring (Option 2).

It is expected that the SHEPD Lead Project Manager will phone the 30-minute line on behalf of the project, but if they are not available, another member of the project team or the contractor can also phone. For the benefit of doubt, in this case the term SHE incidents include:

- All injury incidents incurred when working on behalf of SHEPD
- All injuries to members of the Public associated with SHEPD work and/ or asset
- All incidents impacting the environment
- All Road Traffic Collisions incurred when working on behalf of SHEPD
- All erroneous operational incidents (e.g. switching incidents) incurred when operating on behalf of SHEPD
- All near-miss incidents incurred when working on behalf of SHEPD
- Use of Licence "If it's not safe, we don't do it"

Following any incident as above, SHEPD's incident reporting tool SEARs shall be used to record the incident and log any associated actions following the investigation. Incidents involving a contractor shall be investigated by the Principal Contractor and an Investigation report provided to the SHEPD Project Manager no later than 10 working days after the incident.

The SHEPD Project Manager or delegated team member is responsible for logging the SEAR, uploading supporting documentation (such as the Investigation report), and recording actions to allow them to be tracked to completion. Further guidance is available in REF-PS-SHE-COM-015.

## 7.6 Serious Incident Reporting Procedure

In the event of any breach of health and safety or environmental obligations relating to the project during the construction period, McGowan will provide written notification to SHEPD in line with the SHEPD reporting requirements.

All relevant documentation will be reviewed, updated, and communicated as necessary following any incident.

Contact details for appropriate external bodies are as follows:

Regulator/ Party	Interested	Responsibility
SEPA's Pollution Hotline – 0800 80 70 60 (24 hour service)  SEPA's Floodline service – 0845 988 1188 (24 hour service)		Environmental Regulator. Issue Waste Management Licenses and Exemptions from Waste Management Licensing, CAR Authorisations. Will use enforcement tools to ensure compliance with authorisation conditions issued by them and all other relevant environmental regulation.
NatureScot Tel: 01387 458678		Issuing any protected species or protected area (e.g. SSSI / SPA /SAC) licences required for the project.
The Highland Council Tel: 01349 886603		Local Authority Glenurquhart Road Inverness IV3 5NX

## 8 Waste Management Plan

The Site Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is provided and implemented by McGowan and audited by the Environmental Manager.

### **Purpose of the Plan**

The SWMP provides details on how waste will be dealt with on site, how waste reduction and recycling is to be implemented on the project and how this will be monitored throughout the construction phase.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the waste management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site.

Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### **Types and Predicated Volumes of Waste**

The following types of waste are predicted to be produced on site across the project:

- Sections of 11kV TATA 1113, 3 core armoured, stranded aluminium conductor,
- Wood Cable Drums,
- Wood Pallets / Packaging Materials,
- Special Waste (oily rags, used spill kits, plant nappies etc),
- Cardboard Packing,
- Co-mingled Dry Recyclables (Cans, Plastic etc),
- Liquid / Water (Toilet) Waste,
- General Waste and
- Liquid (Toilet) Waste.

Volumes of wood pallet / packaging materials, cardboard packing, co-mingled dry recyclables, and general waste are unknown at this time however, such waste streams will be minimised where possible.

The actual amounts of each waste stream produced (from waste disposal tickets and transfer notes) and how they are dealt with (through the supply chain) will be detailed within the site waste management plan and available for audit at any time.

### How will Waste be Managed?

The table below details how the waste streams will be dealt with on site and via the McGowan waste disposal supply chain.

Waste Type Description (Must be detailed on WTN)	Method of Disposal	Waste Management Site Address & License/Exemption No
Sections of 11kV TATA 1113, 3 core armoured, stranded aluminium conductor	Recycle / Re-use	To be confirmed
Wood cable drums	Recycle / Re-use	To be confirmed
Wood Pallets/Packaging	Recycle / Re-use	To be confirmed
Special Waste (oily rags, used spill kits, plant nappies etc)	Appropriate Disposal	To be confirmed
Cardboard packing	Recycle / Re-use	To be confirmed
Co-mingled Dry Recyclables (cans, plastic)	Recycle	To be confirmed
General Waste	Landfill	To be confirmed
Liquid (Toilet) Waste	Sewage Treatment Works	To be confirmed

McGowan will engage a suitability licensed and established sub-contractor for disposal of all kinds of waste identified above from site – details to be added once secured.

McGowan will engage a suitability licensed and established sub-contractor for disposal of wastewater from welfare facilities provided for the workforce – details to be added once secured.

## 9 Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Water Management and Pollution Prevention Plan provides details on how waters will be dealt with on site, how water resources will be protected and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project and how this will be monitored throughout the construction phase.

Please note that the scope of works for this project involves

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the water management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site.

Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

A working buffer will be kept (where possible) between watercourses and the works area to be used by McGowan (not possible adjacent to or between the MHWS and the MLWS), where required this will be physically marked out on the ground by the McGowan project team prior to works commencing.

Due to the type of project (construction), the type of access being utilised and the limited construction requirements, water management will generally be limited to the following:

### COSHH Chemicals, Oil and Fuel Storage

All COSHH chemicals, oil drums and containers or other potential contaminants stored on the site will be controlled in accordance with the GBR's 26, 27 & 28 contained in The Water Environment (Miscellaneous) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations, 2002 (COSHH).

These will be isolated, placed on drip trays or banded so that no oil or other contaminants are allowed to reach water courses, tidal zones, or ground water.

A list of these substances will be kept on site.

Storage of such materials and any refuelling activities will be located a minimum of 30m away from any watercourse and out with any flood zones.

All static plant such as generators will have an integral bund or use internal nappies at all times.

### Tidal Zone

Required access routes between the MHWS and the MLWS will be reviewed in advance with only low ground pressure (where possible) plant which is specifically required for construction works allowed to access the areas, works will be completed as quickly as possible to reduce impacts further.

Once routes have been confirmed, mitigation requirements will be assessed and implemented with monitoring completed during works to ensure that any impacts are limited and removed where possible.

Works between the MHWS and the MLWS will be as limited as possible but will include the following:

- removal of constraints and obstacles on cable route
  - works will only take place at low tide – timescales will depend on obstacles found but will be kept to a minimum
  - plant to be checked daily with any issues to be dealt with immediately as per plant checks and operations above
- installation of the cable
  - works will only take place at lower tides
  - works to be completed within one low tide where possible
  - plant to be checked daily with any issues to be dealt with immediately as per plant checks and operations above

### **Water Crossings**

Watercourse crossings for access will utilise existing access tracks (or roads in this case), where possible this will be where crossing points are already in situ and require no further works to ensure suitability.

Once access routes have been confirmed, water crossing requirements will be assessed in advance of works with regards to compliance with the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR Regs) and any required authorisations will be gained prior to works progressing.

### **Works Area Drainage and Surface Water Management**

All works areas and access routes including those between the MHWS and the MLWS will be assessed by the McGowan site team and Environmental Manager with regards to the potential for surface water impacts and run off on an area specific basis.

Where interaction with watercourses / water (tidal zone) cannot be avoided, the following measures will be implemented to protect surface water (including the sea) and groundwater quality:

- temporary drainage routes will be provided (where necessary)
- works within tidal zones will be limited to those required to deliver the project
- silt traps / check dams will be used to capture suspended solids generated during construction and
- construction will be carried out in accordance with appropriate SEPA and CIRIA guidance

Where potential impacts are identified mitigation, generally in the form of silt fencing, will be implemented to safeguard any watercourses and maintain water quality. This mitigation will be monitored during works to ensure suitability and effectiveness and removed once works are complete.

Dewatering of excavations is not expected to be required at this time, the only open excavations will be the open cut trench sections at the ends of the cable route as the cable install between the MHWS and the MLWS is planned to be by cable plough. However, should this be required the Environmental Manager will assess requirements with regards to discharge of pumped waters and appropriate mitigation measures (silt fencing, settlement ponds, discharge to vegetation etc) will be implemented.

### **Ground Water Dependant Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE)**

McGowan have not been made aware that any potential GWDTE areas exist on the project.

Should this requirement change, where possible these areas will be avoided when accessing construction areas with routes out with GWDTE areas planned in consultation with the Environmental Manager.

Where avoidance is not possible, required routes will be reviewed in advance with only low ground pressure plant which is specifically required for construction works allowed to access the areas, works will be completed as quickly as possible to reduce impacts further and any routes within the GWDTE areas will be planned in conjunction with the Environmental Manager.

Where works are carried out adjacent to Ground Water Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems (GWDTE), storage of any oils or fuels will be carried out only where unavoidable and will make use of appropriate bunding to prevent contamination in the event of leaks or spillages. Drip trays will be placed beneath any stationary vehicles or plant to capture leaks. Hydrological pathways will be maintained through appropriate cross drainage.

### **Compound Drainage**

Due to the short duration of the project and the logistical challenges associated, McGowan's will not be creating a hard standing area for use as a compound, instead we will be locating a self-contained groundhog unit and associated bowser above high water on a level area.

All water for temporary site welfare facilities will be brought to site (no water supply is available, grey water (flushing and washing) will come from tanks and drinking water will be bottled) with foul water being collected in a tank (part of the groundhog unit) for offsite disposal at an appropriately licensed facility (sewage treatment works).

Any water contaminated with silt or chemicals will not be discharged directly or indirectly to a watercourse.

### **Private Water Supplies**

McGowan understand that there is one Private Water Supplies (PWS) in proximity to the cable route at this time (see Figure 4), this is a supply to the house on Ornsay and will need to be crossed by the cable route.

Prior to works starting:

- the owners of the PWS will be contacted by the Environmental Manager to ascertain as much information about the supply as possible (location, type of supply, treatment, type of pipe, history, reliability etc) to allow protection measures to be planned and implemented to safeguard the infrastructure,
- the PWS location (including any known pipework etc) will be marked on the ground and all of the McGowan site team will be made aware of the requirements,
- access routes and plant requirements to any potentially affected works areas will then be assessed with access routes and works planned to remove (or at the very least reduce) impact potential where possible,
- potential for impacts from works will be assessed by the Environmental Manager prior to any works happening or access being taken and

- the PWS location and associated infrastructure will be monitored for impacts during works with works stopped and any impacts mitigated immediately they are realised

Should the works scope change or McGowan or the project team be made aware of any further previously unidentified PWS during the works, a risk assessment of potential impacts on the PWS will be undertaken and the appropriate mitigation detailed above will be put in place immediately to protect the supply at all times.

**The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (as amended)**

Watercourse crossings for access to the site area will utilise existing access tracks, where possible this will be where crossing points are already in situ and require no further works to ensure suitability.

Cable route requirements have been assessed with regards to compliance with the Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2011 (CAR Regs) and it is considered that all works can be completed under General Binding Rules (GBR) with no further authorisations required.

Visual monitoring of watercourses in the area of works will be undertaken on a twice daily basis by site staff and recorded in writing within a daily diary, should any issues or impacts be noted this will be reported immediately to the Environmental Manager and mitigation will be installed to deal with the cause of the impacts should they be caused by or the responsibility of McGowan.

## 10 Soil Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Soil Management Plan provides details on how soils will be dealt with on site, how soil resources will be protected during excavation works, what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project and how this will be monitored throughout the construction phase.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the soil management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

Due to the type of project being completed (construction – predominantly by cable plough with limited open cut sections), excavation and soil management requirements will be limited to trench excavation, joint bay excavation and any minor re grading requirements for accesses (out-with between the MHWS and the MLWS section).

The extent of any excavations will be kept to a minimum during construction activities through the use of a cable plough and where excavation is required, excavated materials will be stored according to best practice taking care to separate, as far as is reasonable, turves, topsoil's, soil, and boulders.

Should it be necessary to excavate soils to establish temporary access track or compounds, these materials will be carefully stockpiled adjacent to the track or compound area for re-use and re-instatement following removal of the temporary works.

Localised measures, such as stockpile covers, silt fencing and filter strips will be used to manage runoff from stockpiles.

Excavation will be required for cable tracks and joint bay installations at either end of the 800m length, where this is undertaken soils and vegetation will be stored separately and replaced in reverse order as soon as possible to maximise reinstatement potential and minimise impacts.

The maximum permissible height for any soil stockpiles will be 2m and these will not be stored within 10m of any watercourse or within 2m of any tree where possible.

Where this is not possible a risk assessment for impacts on the will be completed by the Environmental Manager and appropriate protection measures to mitigate any risk identified will be put in place.

For stockpiles adjacent to watercourses these measures (predominantly silt fencing) will ensure that any potential run off issues are controlled and dealt with in a suitable manner so that any and all potential impacts are removed or at the very least minimised.

*Note: due to the type and scale of the works proposed and the type of soils which will be encountered no seeding or re-seeding is planned as part of this project as it is expected that natural regeneration will be of a suitable standard given time to grow naturally.*

### **Contaminated Soils**

From studies completed and site visits, McGowan are not aware of any potential for contaminated soils to be located at any locations which require excavation.

However, should any be identified during works, the Environmental Manager will be notified immediately, soils will be kept separate and where possible isolated until they can be assessed and dealt with in an appropriate manner.

All staff will be made aware of the soils and the associated requirements and appropriate waste management procedures will be applied to the disposal of the contaminated materials.

### **Reinstatement**

Reinstatement will be completed as works progress through the length of the cable route (immediately in the case of the ploughed section) with any excavations, soils removal or works impacts being backfilled as quickly as possible in the order soils were removed.

This will promote quick reinstatement and regeneration.

## 11 Cultural Heritage Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Cultural Heritage Management Plan provides details on how potential for impacts on cultural heritage will be dealt with on site and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the cultural heritage management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

A high-level desk-based appraisal of the historic environment was undertaken to assess whether any constraints were likely to be present on or near to the cable route.

The assessment also identified whether further survey and/or on-site mitigation would be required to ensure potential impacts on the historic environment were avoided or minimised during the cable installation works.

The full desk-based appraisal is available for review in Appendix 4 – Archaeological Desk Based Review.

Although Skye as a whole holds a wealth of historic environment sites from numerous time periods the route of the proposed cable and its immediate vicinity holds virtually no previously recorded sites that date to earlier than AD 1500, the exception being a possible medieval chapel and graveyard (Site 1) to the east of the cable route.

No sites were noted on the route of the underground cable with the closest site being the remains of a likely 18th to 19th century house or farm building, although this was located 30m away meaning it will be well away from the cable working area.

As the cable will be undergrounded (with the majority of it ploughed in) there will be no long-term negative effects on the setting of historic environment sites while the potential for buried archaeological remains to be present on the cable route is considered to be low due to its location.

Although no field survey was undertaken, given the findings above and the fact that the vast majority of the proposed cable route is located between the MHWS and the MLWS, it is very unlikely that any unrecorded upstanding remains relating to the historic environment will be present.

Summary of the potential impacts on the Historic Environment

Category	Constraints	Potential significance of impact from proposed works	Recommendations for further work	Likely on-site Mitigation (subject to recommendations for further work being carried out)
Designated Sites (statutory & non-statutory): Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites, Gardens & Designed Landscapes, Historic Battlefields	None	n/a	n/a	n/a
Non-designated Sites: other historic environment assets	None currently known	Negligible-None	Not required	Not required
Buried Archaeological Remains	Very low potential for buried in situ remains.	Negligible-None	Not required	Not required

No archaeological / cultural heritage features which could potentially be impacted by the works have been identified in the information provided for the project, so a full cultural heritage management plan has not been produced at this time.

Should McGowan or the project team be made aware of any previously unidentified features during the works, a suitably qualified archaeologist will undertake a review of the specific feature.

Should it be necessary, surveys or assessments will be completed in line with legal and best practice requirements, a risk assessment of potential impacts will be undertaken and appropriate mitigation (avoidance, watching brief, investigation etc) put in place to protect the feature(s) at all times.

## 12 Ecological Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Ecological Management Plan provides details on how potential for impacts on ecology will be identified and dealt with on site and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

All relevant mitigation measures as detailed within the environmental assessment for the project and the pre-construction surveys will be implemented through Contractor method statements (RAMS).

Monitoring / surveys by the Environmental Manager and appropriate others will be undertaken before and throughout the construction works programme as required to ensure that works are compliant with all mitigation, environmental commitments, and other legal and regulatory requirements.

Pre-construction surveys have been completed (November 2022) to inform the Marine Licence application process and this CEMP and will be completed again prior to works starting to provide up to date information with regards to protected species, breeding birds or valuable habitats on site, mitigation, and the associated requirements for construction compliance.

Works in areas where constraints have been identified will be in line with Site or Aspect Specific Risk Assessments, Best Practice, NatureScot Guidance, or the pre-approved SSE Species Protection Plans (SPPs) (see Appendix 7) as appropriate (depending upon findings, species, and location).

### General Mitigation

Works will only be undertaken during daytime periods therefore reducing the potential impacts of disturbance on nocturnal and crepuscular species.

All structures with potential for bat roosts will be marked prior to works commencing and avoided during construction activities (none have been identified along the route at this time).

Vehicle speeds will be restricted across site in order to minimise the risk of collision with any animals.

Where sensitive habitats cannot be avoided, traffic movements will be minimised, taking special care when turning or reversing, and using bog mats and trackway if necessary and where required.

In excavations which are required to be left open overnight, ramps of gently sloping faces will be employed to allow safe access / egress for any mammal species that may become trapped.

In the event of any significant signs of mammal activity being found additional to those identified during the course of surveys as described above, works will cease immediately in

that area, and advice sought from the Environmental Manager, and if necessary, the local NatureScot office.

### **Breeding Birds**

There are over 250 species of wild bird that are either resident in Britain or regularly visit our shores as part of their migration.

#### **How are they protected?**

All wild birds in the UK are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (WCA). Even common species like pigeons or blackbirds are protected.

Some rarer species, or those that are vulnerable to disturbance or persecution receive further protection.

#### **Offences**

Under the WCA it is an offence to:

- Kill or injure any wild bird
- Capture or keep (alive or dead) any wild bird
- Destroy or take the egg of any wild bird
- Sell or advertise for sale any wild bird or its eggs
- Destroy, damage, interfere with, take, or obstruct the use of the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built.

There is also further protection for rare breeding birds listed under Schedule 1 of the WCA. This makes it an **offence** to:

- Disturb any specially protected bird while it is building its nest;
- Disturb any specially protected bird while it is in or near a nest containing eggs or young;
- Disturb the young of any of these birds before they are wholly independent.

This legislation means that birds are fully protected in Scotland, and that any planned activity, which may affect them, requires prior consultation with the appropriate statutory nature conservation organisation (NatureScot).

#### **Protection Plan**

Should a bird nest be identified during the works, the following emergency procedure should be followed:

- Stop the activity being undertaken immediately (ensuring any nest is not removed / destroyed);
- Immediately inform the site supervisor, the Environmental Manager and SHEPD;
- Environmental Manager to confirm presence of nest and consult specialists and if necessary NatureScot, over appropriate mitigation;

The activity should not resume until written approval, detailing any appropriate mitigation has been given by the Environmental Manager.

The following provides mitigation options to cover bird species that are not specifically protected:

Where work is to be conducted during the breeding season the area must be checked for nesting birds by a suitably qualified Ornithologist / Ecologist. If nesting birds are found, the area around the nest should be protected from disturbance by the use of an appropriate set-back buffer of at least 3m and work avoided in the area until the young had left the nest.

Please note that the mitigation buffer for breeding birds is species dependent and NatureScot guidance on appropriate buffer distances should be applied for compliance.

With the above in mind it is advised works are undertaken out with the bird breeding season (March - August inclusive), or preclearance checks are undertaken immediately in advance of works by a suitable experienced ecologist under Schedule 1 licence.

No construction would take place within the vicinity of a known nest site during the breeding bird season (March - August) unless:

- It has been possible to discourage bird nesting, or
- it has been shown via risk assessment that no impacts will be seen (monitoring may be required to confirm this), or
- where pre-construction surveys have indicated that no birds are nesting.

Should any nesting (or lekking) birds be identified during the pre-construction surveys or after construction has begun, the nest site will be protected by marking of an appropriate buffer zone as agreed with the Environmental Manager.

A risk assessment will be carried out to assess potential for impacts from activities.

None identified at this time.

Travelling of vehicles along access tracks during the breeding bird season in the vicinity of known constraints will be minimised where possible and monitored where required.

All site staff will be briefed on procedures to be implemented if any nesting birds are found within the construction area and work will stop in the area until the Environmental Manager has been consulted.

### **Pre Works-Mitigation**

Due to the timings of the works (July 2023) there is a requirement to dissuade birds from nesting on the ground within the works area.

With the above in mind the following will be completed by McGowan's and the Environmental Manager – please note that the following has no requirement for any soil stripping:

The mitigation will comprise strimming vegetation/cutting any scrub within a 10m corridor and the proposed compound area (start at end of February 2023 and monthly thereafter (if required)) followed by the installation of posts & ticker tape as bird scarers (March 2023).

Monitoring of requirements (to strim or not) will be completed at no less frequently than monthly intervals until construction commences.

### **European Protected Species (EPS)**

Where, during pre-works walkovers, it is identified that works have the potential to impact on EPS or other protected species, further survey will be completed to fully assess the area and appropriate mitigation measures in line with guidance will be implemented prior to works taking place.

Monitoring / surveys by the Environmental Manager and appropriate others will be undertaken throughout the construction works programme as necessary to ensure that works are compliant with all mitigation, environmental commitments, and other legal and regulatory requirements.

### **Biosecurity**

McGowan are not aware of any biosecurity issues within the working area at this time, so no requirements have been implemented.

However, should this issue be raised or identified the following procedure will be implemented:

- The biosecurity risk will be identified and quantified (location etc)
- The area will be avoided where possible
- Where not possible to avoid, a site-specific biosecurity mitigation plan will be produced for approval
- Once approved, the plan will be implemented in its entirety and complied with at all times. Compliance will be monitored by the Environmental Manager and reported to the project team.

### **Invasive Species**

McGowan are not aware of any invasive species within the working area at this time, so no requirements have been implemented.

However, should this issue be raised or identified the following procedure will be implemented:

- Invasive species will be identified and quantified (location etc)
- Area will be avoided where possible
- Where not possible to avoid, a site-specific invasive species mitigation plan will be produced for approval
- Once approved, the plan will be implemented in its entirety and complied with at all times. Compliance will be monitored by the Environmental Manager and reported to the project team.

Where invasive species are present within 10 m of works, appropriate measures will be taken to prevent further spread from activities relating to the Proposed Development.

### **Valuable Habitats and GWDTE**

Where, during pre-works walkovers, it is identified that works have the potential to impact on valuable habitats or GWDTE, further survey will be completed to fully assess the area and appropriate mitigation measures (avoidance, marking out, buffer zones etc) in line with guidance will be implemented prior to works taking place.

- Valuable Habitats and GWDTE will be identified and quantified (location etc)
- Areas will be avoided where possible
- Where not possible to avoid, a site-specific mitigation plan will be produced for approval
- Once approved, the plan will be implemented in its entirety and complied with at all times. Compliance will be monitored by the Environmental Manager and reported to the project team.

Monitoring / surveys by the Environmental Manager and appropriate others will be undertaken throughout the construction works programme as necessary to ensure that works are compliant with all mitigation, environmental commitments, and other legal and regulatory requirements.

None identified at this time.

## 13 Construction Plant Maintenance and Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Construction Plant Maintenance and Management Plan provides details on the plant to be used on site, what activities they will be used for and where they will be used as well as how they will be maintained and what will happen should issues be identified on the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

Currently it is planned that only the following plant and equipment will be utilised for the Skye – Ornsay UG Cable Project:

	Description	Activity	Location of Use
1	Landing Craft - Ferguson Marine Carly (or similar)	Delivery and collection of plant and equipment between Kyle and Isle Ornsay	Within the water
2	14t tracked excavator	Advanced excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
3	20t tracked excavator	Advance excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
4	Hydraulic Breaker for mounting on excavator	Advance excavation of cable trench in rock sections / reinstatement of working area on completion	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
5	Groundhog Welfare Unit	Welfare	Land based only
6	3000l fuel bowser – fully (110%) bunded	Fuel bunker for duration of works	Land based only
7	Föckersperger FWF 82 Winch Tractor	Winching cable plough	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)

	Description	Activity	Location of Use
8	Föckersperger FSP 22 Spider Plough	Cable ploughing	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
9	Caterpillar D5H Crawler	Pulling drum trailer	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
10	Drum Trailer – bespoke	Carrying cable drum	Across all land-based works areas and between the MHWS and the MLWS (where required)
11	LGV (x3)	Transport personnel from accommodation to site	Land based only

Should additional plant be required this will be added to the table above and assessed prior to use.

All of the above plant and equipment will be checked on a daily basis with any identified leaks or other issues fixed immediately before plant is used or moved.

Should the identified plant issue not be able to be fixed on site, the plant will be removed from the project and replaced or fixed off site and returned.

All of the above plant will have spill kits with them at all times, these kits will be checked on a daily basis and any used or missing items will be replaced immediately from on-site stored spares, located within the compound.

All plant, when not in use, will be stored on plant nappies (does not apply to 1, 5, 10 and 11 above). All plant will have its own allocated plant nappy which, if used and no longer able to function correctly, will be replaced immediately.

Plant stored on site overnight on site will be located at least 30m from any watercourse, out with any flooding area and not between the MHWS and the MLWS.

All plant, when not in use, will be turned off, no plant will be left idling unless a specific reason is provided.

Only plant which is required for the operation of the cable plough will be used between the MHWS and the MLWS with constant checks carried out through the delivery process (installation of the cable and associated aspects through ploughing) to ensure that no issues are realised with regards to potential impacts on the beach and surface waters.

## 14 Vibration Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Vibration Management Plan provides details on how the potential for impacts through vibration will be identified and dealt with on site and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

Construction vibration will be managed primarily through best practice on site and the use of suitable and well-maintained equipment.

To ensure construction activities do not cause nuisance to local residents or impacts between the MHWS and the MLWS, McGowan will follow construction best practice standards (e.g. as outlined in BS 5228: 2009) and industry best practice programmes such as the Considerate Contractor’s Scheme for the project where appropriate.

### Identified Areas of Potential Vibration

The following table contains aspects of the project have been identified as potential areas of vibration, it also identifies the mitigation available, and the likely impacts based on the project requirements and the site-specific environment identified:

Activity	Plant Involved	Expected Impacts (pre mitigation)	Mitigation	Expected Impacts (post mitigation)
Delivery and collection of plant and equipment between Kyle and Isle Ornsay	Landing Craft - Ferguson Marine Carly (or similar)	Low	Minimise trips	Low
Route Clearance (non-tidal zone)	14t and 20t Tracked Excavators (possibly with Hydraulic Breaker)	Low	Cable route to be planned to avoid obstacles if possible. Clearance to be kept to minimum required to carry out works (depth and width of trench required)	Low

Activity	Plant Involved	Expected Impacts (pre mitigation)	Mitigation	Expected Impacts (post mitigation)
Route Clearance (tidal zone)	14t and 20t Tracked Excavators (with Hydraulic Breaker)	Moderate	Cable route to be planned to avoid obstacles if possible. Clearance to be kept to minimum required to carry out works (depth and width of trench required). Breaker to only be used when no other option available. Works to be completed at low tide only.	Low / Moderate – depending on requirements (how much breaking is required and where)
Cable Install (non-tidal zone)	14t and 20t Tracked Excavators	Low	Cable trench to be kept to minimum required	Low
Cable Install (tidal zone)	14t tracked excavator, Föckersperger FWF 82 Winch Tractor, Föckersperger FSP 22 Spider Plough, Caterpillar D5H Crawler, Drum Trailer – bespoke	Low	Cable route to be cleared in advance – no obstacles. Cable to be installed as quickly as possible – one low tide. Reinstatement to be completed immediately – behind the cable plough.	Low

If all of the above mitigation is implemented, it is considered that the impacts on the current environment from vibration during the project will be Low.

## 15 Noise and Air Quality Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Noise and Air Quality Management Plan provides details on how potential for impacts on noise and air quality will be identified and dealt with on site and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

Construction noise and air quality will be managed primarily through best practice on site and the use of suitable and well-maintained equipment.

To ensure construction activities do not cause nuisance to local residents, McGowan will follow construction best practice standards (e.g. as outlined in BS 5228: 2009 and industry best practice programmes such as the Considerate Contractor's Scheme) and the Traffic Management Plan for the project where appropriate.

Measures to prevent the generation of dust will be adopted during construction of the scheme.

These will include the following:

- Site speed limits to be set at 15mph on tracks;
- Provide adequate protection for fine or dry materials from wind exposure (e.g. cover over materials on site and in lorries);
- No burning of waste on site; and
- Appropriate wheel washing to be used as and when required.

All vehicles will comply with relevant Euro Standards for emissions levels.

All vehicle drivers will be required to switch off their vehicle engines when stationary to reduce exhaust emissions and keep their engines in tune and catalyts and / or particulate filters working efficiently.

## 16 Unexploded Ordnance Management Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Unexploded Ordnance Management Plan provides details on how the potential for Unexploded Ordnance to be located within the works area has been assessed and where required how it will be dealt with on site and what mitigation measures are to be implemented on the project where required.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the unexploded ordnance management plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### Methodology

A high-level desk-based appraisal of the risk of unexploded ordnance being present within the works area was undertaken to assess whether any constraints were likely to be present on or near to the cable route.

The assessment also identified whether further survey and/or on-site mitigation would be required.

The full desk-based appraisal is available for review in Appendix 5 – Unexploded Ordnance Desk Based Appraisal.

The table below details the findings of the above appraisal:

Type of Ordnance	Likelihood of Contamination	Likelihood of UXO Remaining	Likelihood of Encounter	Potential Consequence	Overall Risk Level
German High Explosive Bombs	Low	Low	Low	Severe	Low
German 1kg Incendiary Bombs	Low	Low	Low	Severe	Low
Allied Antiaircraft Shells	Low	Low	Low	Minor	Low
British / Allied Small Arms	Low	Low	Low	Not Significant	Low
Land Service Ammunition	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Low

Naval Ordnance	Low	Low	Low	Severe	Low
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Based on the above appraisal the overall risk to the project from Unexploded Ordnance is considered to be low, no further works or assessments required, and no mitigation proposed for during works.

Should the project team be made aware of any potentially ordnance related items during the works, work will stop immediately, and a suitably qualified specialist will undertake a review.

## 17 Outdoor Access Plan

### **Purpose of the Plan**

The Outdoor Access Plan provides details on how potential for impacts on members of the public accessing core paths and ensuring safety requirements are implemented in line with the Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Part 3 of the Countryside (Scotland) Act 1967 and the careful management of restrictions for management of health and safety at work (HSG151 etc).

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### **General**

McGowan will use existing access tracks where possible as per access schedule and ensure access is agreed / maintained with landowner and specifically through the SHEPD wayleave team.

Where possible, no public rights of way will be blocked as part of the proposed works.

Where this is not possible, appropriate efforts will be made to provide a suitable diversion and appropriate signage in line with requirements will be provided to warn potential users in advance of any issues.

Recreational access will only be prohibited where construction activity is actually being undertaken at that time and will be communicated via appropriate parties to those affected.

This will be in accordance with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and for general safety purposes.

## 18 Site Carbon Reduction Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The Site Carbon Reduction Plan provides details on actions McGowan intend to take to reduce carbon emissions associated with site activities, materials used and, where applicable, the operational performance of buildings / welfare for the project.

### Roles and Responsibilities

Overall responsibility for the implementation of the plan sits with the site team and all staff on site. Specific delivery requirements are the responsibility of the McGowan Site Manager and the Environmental Manager.

### General

McGowan will use energy efficient, well maintained static and mobile construction plant and ensure that all ignitions are turned off when plant is not in use, machinery will not be left idling unless required to.

Fuel usage across the project will be monitored during works with vehicle sharing (if suitable under COVID-19 requirements) and online meetings (limited attendance meetings) being promoted to reduce the number of vehicles required.

Where possible materials will be recycled or from recycled sources to reduce impacts from the production of new materials, this may not always be suitable due to the type of materials required for the project.

Carbon emissions from project activities will be reviewed with the view to reduce impacts by making changes to processes. For example:

- vegetation clearance will be kept to a minimum to aid regeneration post works being completed,
- welfare units will be placed as close as possible to working areas to reduce the travel requirements,
- existing haul roads or suitable all-terrain vehicles will be used where possible to reduce the need for new access tracks being created.

McGowan will review the above and other actions with a view to detailing the expected reduction in carbon emissions in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) for each action although this is not always possible to represent.

## Appendix 1 – Environmental Incident Response Plan

### Spill Response

All site staff will be trained in how to use a spill kit.

For plant/equipment leaks and spills:

- STOP WORK immediately
- Remove all sources of ignition (if substance is flammable)
- Put on appropriate PPE
- STOP the spill at source
- CONTAIN the spill using spill kit
- PROTECT sensitive areas using spill kit booms – including water courses and identified sensitive ecology
- Contact the site supervisor and advise of action taken
- Call the SHEPD 30-minute reporting line to register the incident
- Clean up the spill and any affected ground using spill kit
- Dispose of waste appropriately (segregate for disposal as Special Waste)
- Replenish any spill materials utilised

This spill response procedure will be posted in all staff welfare facilities.

### Other Environmental Incidents

Site operatives will be given a toolbox talk with respect to possible environmental incidents that may arise during the works; these may include:

- Flooding;
- Generation of excessive dust or noise resulting in nuisance issues and possible third-party complaints;
- Damage to trees or habitat outside the wayleave or agreed access routes;
- Discovery of archaeological or historic remains;
- Soft ground and possible sinking;
- A near miss that could have resulted in an incident.

**All environmental incidents will be reported immediately to the Environmental Manager: Chris Meek Tel: [REDACTED] Email: [cnoclee@outlook.com](mailto:cnoclee@outlook.com)**

## Appendix 2 - McGowan Environmental Policy

### INTEGRATED ENVIRONMENTAL & QUALITY POLICY



It is the policy of McGowan Environmental Engineering Ltd to maintain a quality system designed to meet the requirements of ISO9001:2015 / ISO 14001:2015 (or any other standard in line with Annex SL Structure) in pursuit of its primary objectives, the purpose and the context of the organisation.

It is the policy of McGowan Environmental Engineering Ltd to:

- strive to satisfy the requirements of all of our customers, stakeholders and interested parties whenever possible, meeting and exceeding their expectations;
- comply with all compliance obligations, codes of practice and all other requirements applicable to our activities including the nature, scale and environmental impacts of its activities, products and services;
- ensure the protection of the environment, including prevention of pollution, sustainable resource use, climate change mitigation and adaptation, the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems and any other specific commitments which are relevant to the context of the organisation;
- provide all the resources of equipment, trained and competent staff and any other requirements to enable these objectives to be met;
- ensure that all employees are made aware of their individual obligations in respect of this integrated Quality, and Environmental Policy, and ensure that consultation and participation of workers, to be actively involved in the management of the system and the activities supplied;
- maintain a management system that will achieve these objectives and seek continual improvement in the effectiveness and performance of our management system based on "risk".

This integrated Quality, & Environmental Policy provides a framework for setting, monitoring, reviewing and achieving our objectives, programmes and targets.

Customer service is an essential part of the quality & environmental process and to ensure this is fulfilled, all employees receive training to ensure awareness and understanding of quality and environment and its impact on customer service and of the products or service in which we provide.

To ensure the company maintains its awareness for continuous improvement, the quality, & environmental system is regularly reviewed by "Top Management" to ensure it remains appropriate and suitable to our business.

The Quality & Environmental System is subject to both internal and external annual audits.

Signed  
(Ross McGowan - Managing Director)

Review Date: 17 January 2022  
Next Review Date: 17 January 2023

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2.01 Version 4 Dated 17 Jan 2022

## Appendix 3 – Ecological Assessment November 2022

## Appendix 4 – Archaeological Desk Based Review

## Appendix 5 – Unexploded Ordnance Desk Based Appraisal

## Appendix 6 – Marine Licence

## Appendix 7 – SSE Species Protection Plans

<b>SSEN Species Protection Plan Reference</b>	<b>Species</b>
TG-NET-ENV-500.pdf	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
TG-NET-ENV-501.pdf	Badger
TG-NET-ENV-502.pdf	Bat
TG-NET-ENV-503.pdf	Otter
TG-NET-ENV-504.pdf	Red Squirrel
TG-NET-ENV-505.pdf	Bird
TG-NET-ENV-506.pdf	Water Vole
TG-NET-ENV-507.pdf	Wildcat
TG-NET-ENV-508.pdf	Pine Marten

## Figures

### Figure 1 – Works Location Plan

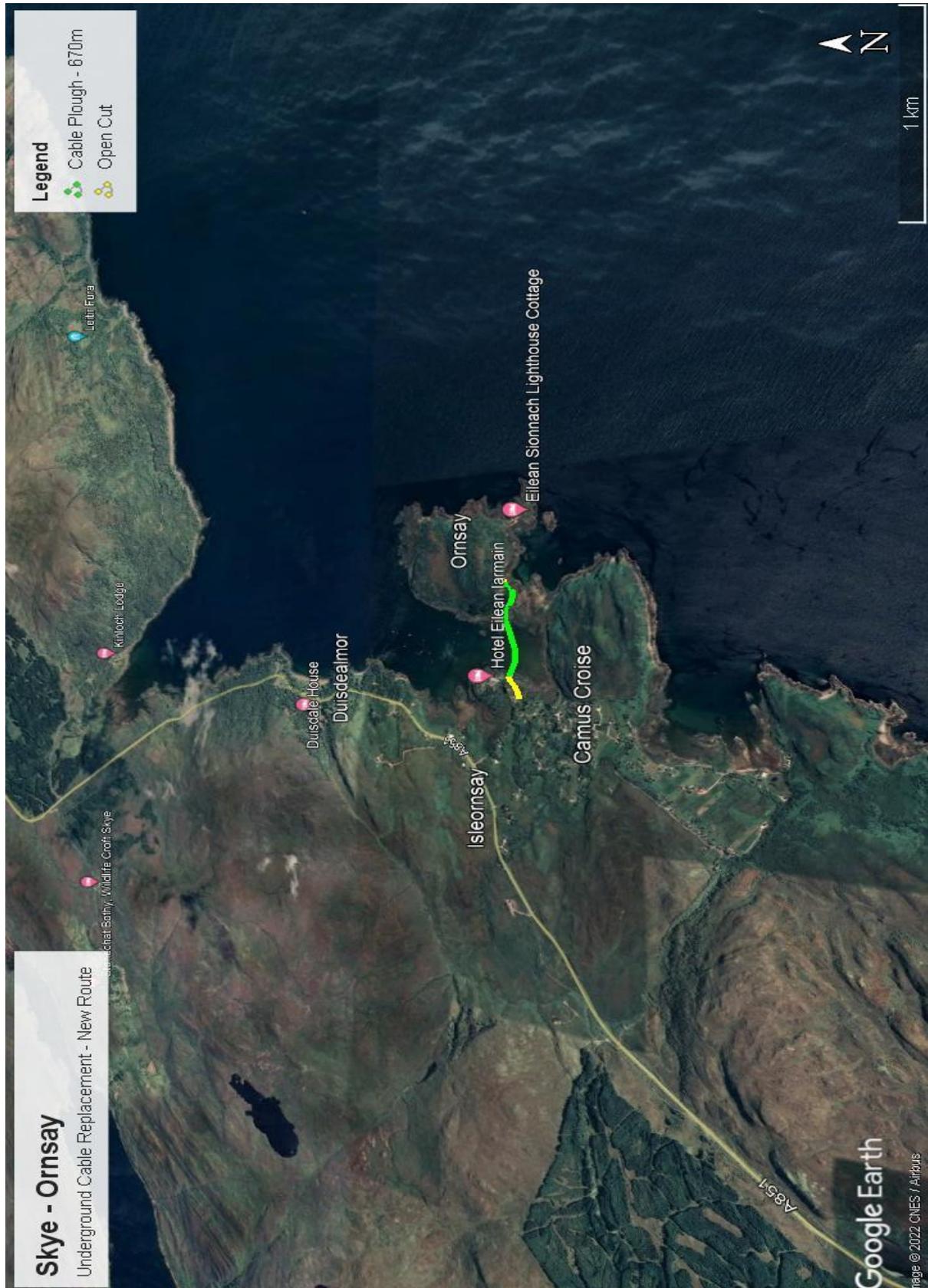


Figure 2 – Cable Installation Plan



Figure 3 – Compound and Laydown Location Plan



Figure 4 – Site Layout with Services

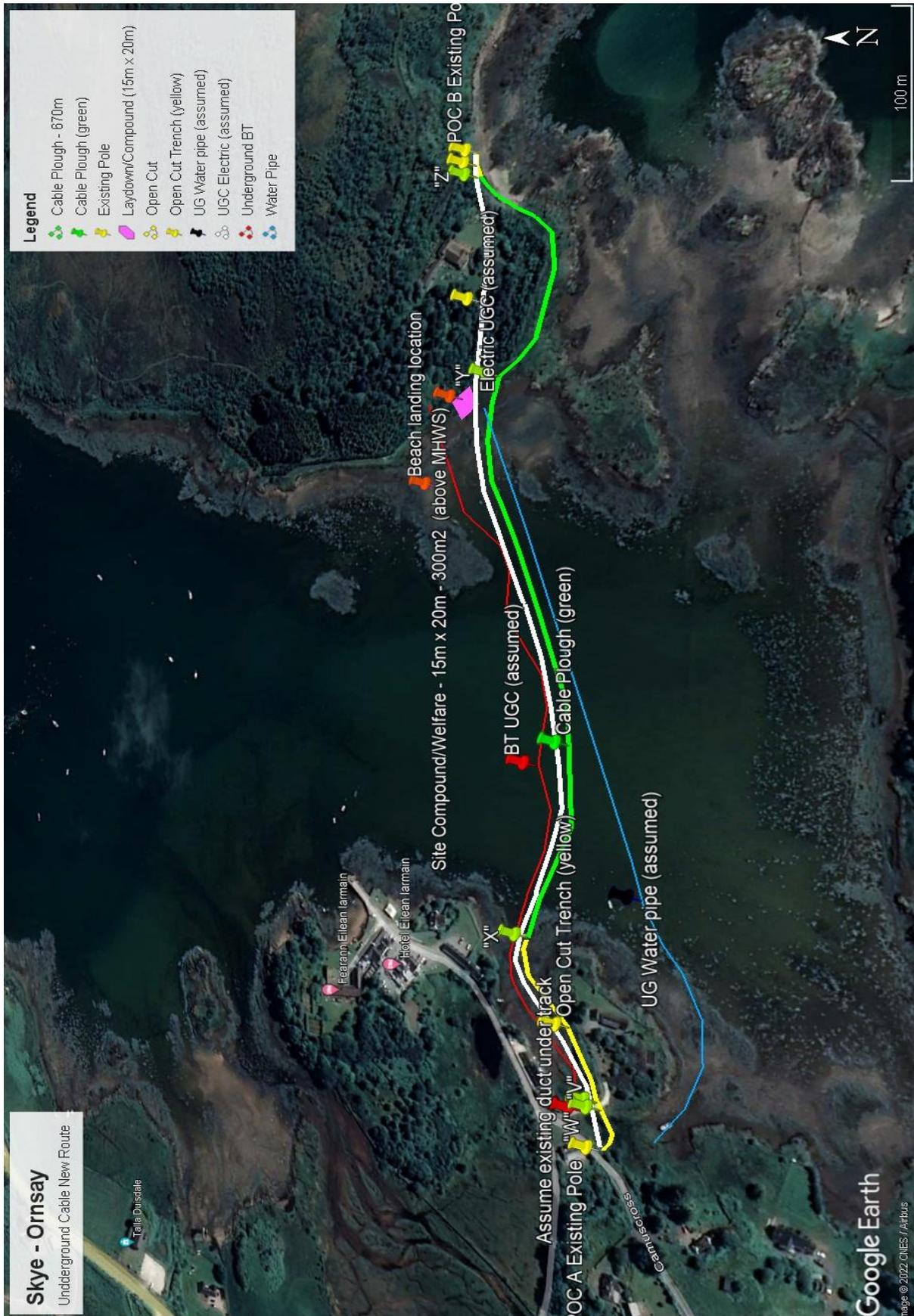
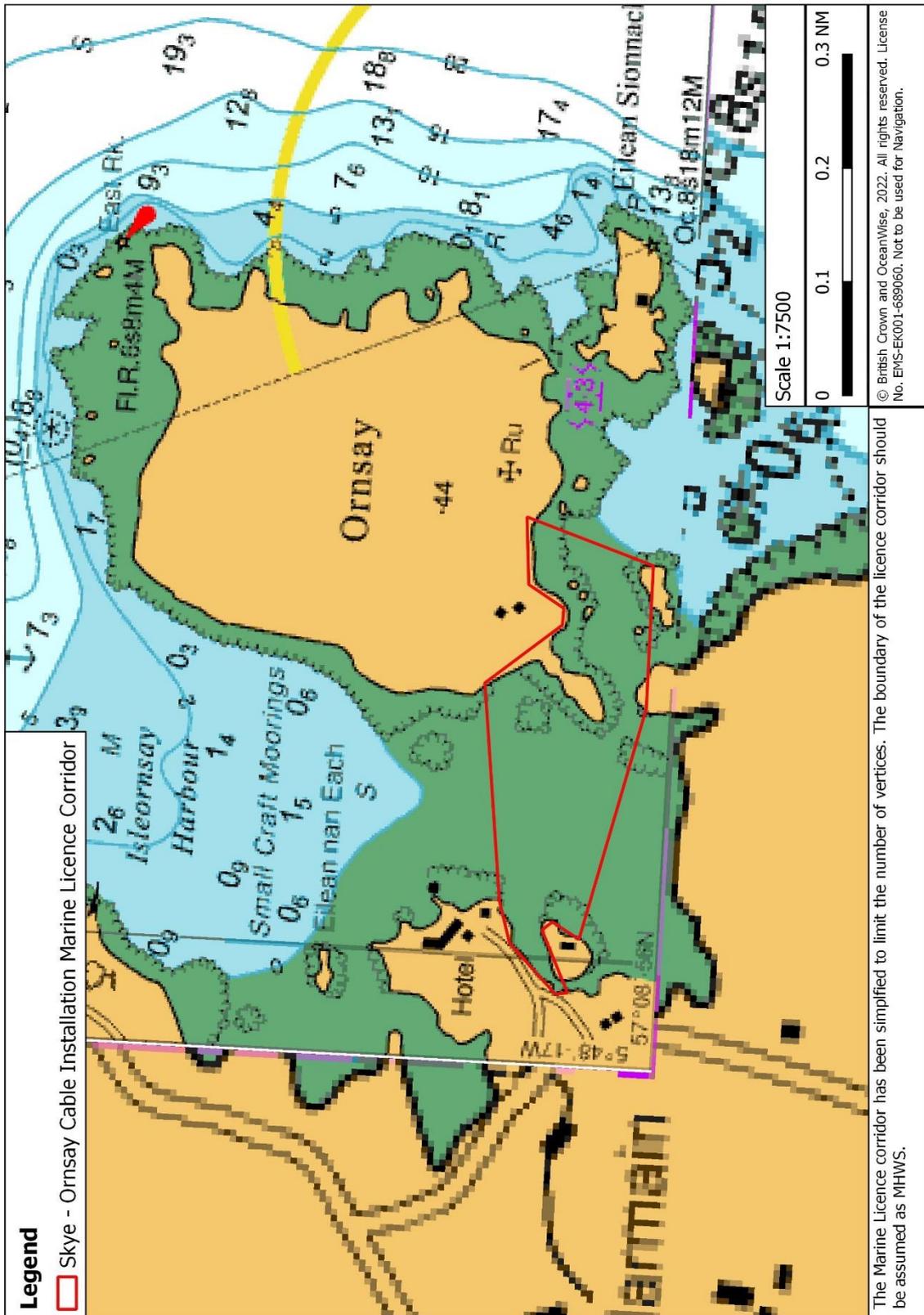


Figure 5 – Cable Installation Plan with Working Corridor



## Figure 6 – Site Photos



View towards POC A - Open Cut Section



View Across Bay – Plough Section



View towards POC B - Plough Section and Open Cut Section (last 30m)

**Figure 7 – Plant Photos**



Excavator with Breaker Attached



Cable Plough in Use (Tidal Area)



Cable Plough