



# SPACEPORT ONE: ENABLING - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMME

EnvCoW Inspection Report

For CnES

19/12/2024

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for **CnES**

December 2024

Ver 0.1

### PROJECT INFORMATION:

PROJECT CODE	P58
NGR	NF 7290 75370
REGION	North Uist
LOCAL AUTHORITY	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

### PROJECT TEAM:

PROJECT MANAGER	Laura Carse
AUTHOR	Gareth Gentles
SITE VISIT	November/December 2024
GRAPHICS	N/A
APPROVED BY	Gareth Gentles
VERSION COMMENTS	V0.1 for comment

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Outline.....	1
2.	Site Comments / Observations .....	1
2.1.	Activities .....	1
2.2.	General Comments .....	1
2.3.	Environmental Incidences .....	2
2.4.	Compound .....	2
2.5.	Water Quality .....	2
2.6.	Cultural Heritage .....	3
2.7.	Otter Protection Plan.....	3
2.8.	Breeding Bird Protection Plan .....	4
2.9.	Waste Management .....	4
3.	Visit Photographs.....	4
4.	Actions .....	7

# 1. OUTLINE

<b>Start Date / Time</b>	<b>19-20 November, 2-3 December and 9-10 December</b>
<b>Completed Date / Time</b>	<b>19-20 November, 2-3 December and 9-10 December</b>
<b>Site</b>	<b>Spaceport One</b>
<b>Works</b>	<b>Enabling construction</b>
<b>Weather</b>	<b>Wet, windy with wintery conditions</b>
<b>Temperature</b>	<b>Minimum 1 C Max 10 C</b>

## 2. SITE COMMENTS / OBSERVATIONS

### 2.1. ACTIVITIES

MacAulay Askernish Ltd have set up the site, installed perimeter fencing, and marked cultural heritage features for protection using heras-type fencing and undertaken the removal of historical features in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist to facilitate construction works to proceed.

To date, construction work has been focused on upgrading site access, forming a new bell mouth to the A865, stabilising soft spots to the road identified through impactation testing and creating a laydown area for site accommodation and passing places to the road. A new culvert has been installed to the discharge point to connect to a land drain feeding under the A865 (Photo 1).

Silt mitigation measures have been installed to protect surface water run off to Loch Scolpaig and water quality monitoring has been completed to ensure control measures are sufficient, all results are within the parameters of the baseline testing<sup>1</sup> and no adverse water quality impacts have been recorded. Preconstruction ecological surveys have been undertaken and works are proceeding in line with all applicable mitigation measures.

### 2.2. GENERAL COMMENTS

All works have been completed in accordance with planning conditions, Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and environmental and construction industry best practice.

Site personnel have received a series of toolbox talks with subject matter ranging from Archology, Water Pollution Prevention (fuel and oil), Stripping Sub Soils (Management and Planning), Water Pollution Prevention (Silt). Toolbox talks to cover ecological and ornithological constraints will be delivered in early 2025.

Noise, vibration and dust is being kept to a minimum through construction best practice measures and the site is compliant to the Construction Traffic Management Plan. Access has been restricted to the general public (Photo 2) for health and safety reasons in line with HSG151 Protecting the Public<sup>2</sup> and is anticipated to be reopened once safe access is possible.

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<sup>1</sup> See Spaceport1 Construction Environmental Management Plan for CnES, November 2024.

<sup>2</sup> HSE. (2009). Protecting the Public. Your next move. Available at <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/books/hsg151.htm>

## 2.3. ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

Further asbestos has been discovered within the arisings behind Byre number 3 (Photo 3). The material appears to be visually similar to the asbestos debris identified within the preconstruction Asbestos Refurbishment / Demolition Report (appended to the CEMP). The area has been fenced off and warning signs installed (Photo 4). It is anticipated the material will be segregated and removed from site within a bulk load and disposed of as special waste.

## 2.4. COMPOUND

The site compound has been established and is powered by a diesel generator located within a bunded area with plant nappies and spill kits in place (Photo 5), all fuel bowsers are double bunded and located on plant nappies. Additional plant nappies are in place to facilitate the refuelling of plant and machinery when required with spares available within the stores. Inspection of the storage facilities including COSHH stores (Photo 6) was adequate with best practice in place. Site welfare facilities are serviced via a foul waste tank.

## 2.5. WATER QUALITY

Extensive silt fencing and coir logs have been installed between the construction works and Loch Scolpaig as a mitigation measure to control construction surface water run off (Photo 7 and Photo 8). General site pollution prevention is in place with all machines using plant nappies when not in use and equipped with a spill kit (Photo 9).

No works have been undertaken to the causeway to the loch, this is anticipated to commence in early 2025 with the establishment of a double walled dam, installation of pumps and silt mitigation measures.

Weekly water samples are collected from both the upper (north) and lower (south) sections of Loch Scolpaig to monitor water quality as construction progresses. The results, shown in Table 1, indicate that there have been no adverse impacts on water quality so far. Construction runoff is being effectively managed with silt containment and discharge through vegetation, ensuring no visible impact on Loch Scolpaig water quality, as evidenced by turbidity samples.

Although turbidity (ntu) is not a direct measure of suspended solids, it serves as a valuable tool for assessing water quality and the effectiveness of control measures. Additional water quality samples have been sent to the laboratory for further analysis and comparison to baseline metrics of suspended solids (mg/l) to calibrate turbidity readings and demonstrate project compliance and the effectiveness of control measures.

Table 1 Water Quality Results

Water Quality Sample Point / Date	Baseline Suspended Solids (mg/l) UKAS Lab	Baseline Turbidity (ntu)	Baseline pH	Loch Scolpaig Recorded Turbidity (ntu)	Loch Scolpaig Recorded pH
North Loch (BWQ1) 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	32mg/l	29.05	7.30	11.10	6.67
South loch (BWQ2) 20 <sup>th</sup> November 2024	<10mg/l	20.59	7.27	14.36	6.30
North Loch (BWQ1) 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	32mg/l	29.05	7.30	0.43	7.16
South Loch (BWQ2) 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	<10mg/l	20.59	7.27	2.56	6.65

North Loch (BWQ1) 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	32mg/l	29.05	7.30	6.76	7.72
South Loch (BWQ2) 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	<10mg/l	20.59	7.27	1.51	7.26

## 2.6. CULTURAL HERITAGE

A toolbox talk was delivered to all project staff to highlight the significance of the cultural heritage assets and demarcated sites identified in the proposed development area. Identified cultural heritage assets in the immediate vicinity of the groundworks have been fenced off from construction activity using temporary heras-type fencing until the end of the construction programme (Photo 10). Identified standing structures are Byres 1, 2, and 3 and parts of the boundary wall intersecting with the new access track. Heras-type temporary fencing has also been erected at excavation areas 2 and 3. A temporary visual barrier was erected at area 1 during the programme of archaeological works.

Targeted excavation by way of trial trenching was undertaken by Headland Archaeology in August 2024. The objective was to sample the development area to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site, determine the location, character, extent, quality, and date of the identified remains, and to provide information to enable appropriate decisions regarding further mitigation works. Of the twelve trenches planned in the WSI, a total of eleven trenches were excavated by machine under direct archaeological supervision. Trenching was terminated at the top of the geology or the first archaeological horizon whichever was encountered first, with a total excavated area of c.330 m<sup>2</sup>. A total of seven archaeological features were identified during the works comprising six structural elements (walls and floors), and a single dumped spread, as well as three clearly modern features including a large modern dumping pit.

As several of the uncovered structures will be impacted by the groundworks, it was recommended that these be fully exposed to understand their significance and place in the site, with the objective to remove them. These works were undertaken in November 2024 by targeted archaeological excavation and archaeological Construction Integrated Recording. The WSI was updated accordingly to reflect these changes.

Further fieldwork therefore included the excavation of three areas under direct archaeological supervision to target the newly identified structures which included upstanding stone walls approximately 0.5 m high in trench 11, an area 5 m by 6 m adjacent to the larger byre structure to expose any surviving wall remnants and the full extent of the stone floor in trench 5, and 2.5 m of either side of the wall and for 5 m along its length where Spaceport road is due to run in trench 3. The features were all cleaned, excavated, and recorded.

The second element of the fieldwork which ran simultaneously was the Construction Integrated Recording phase at the three targeted areas, along with the removal of the extant structure to the north-west of trench 5. An archaeologist monitored the machine excavation and removal of the structures recorded during the targeted excavation. All machine excavation at the targeted areas during the excavation and CIR phases will be undertaken by a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a flat bladed ditching bucket for removal of all soft deposits. Machine excavation terminated at the top of the natural geology or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was encountered first.

All identified archaeological features, deposits, and finds were recorded according to ClfA Standard and Guidance, and a site plan including all identified features, areas of excavation and other information was recorded 3-dimensionally using Headland Archaeology's digital spatial recording system.

A further update will be provided following the issuance of the Headland Archaeology report.

## 2.7. OTTER PROTECTION PLAN

Preconstruction otter surveys have been completed and mitigation measures developed into an Otter Protection Plan. General ecological construction mitigation measures have been included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan and implemented onsite. Speed limit signs of 10 mph have

been installed to the access road for construction traffic. Site-specific ecological toolbox talks are anticipated to be delivered in early 2025.

## 2.8. BREEDING BIRD PROTECTION PLAN

Construction works are currently outwith the breeding bird season. Preconstruction breeding bird ornithological surveys shall be completed in line with seasonal requirements and specific mitigation measures undertaken as part of the Corncrake Management Plan. It is anticipated that this phase of construction works will continue until April 2025 when the breeding season commences. The breeding bird protection plan will be submitted to the consenting authority for approval and site implementation ahead of the breeding season.

## 2.9. WASTE MANAGEMENT

MacAulay Askernish are removing all waste from site in line with their waste carrier's licence. There are no skips present on the site.

# 3. VISIT PHOTOGRAPHS

Photo 1 New culvert feeding under the A865



Photo 2 Site access notice board



Photo 3 Asbestos in arising behind Byre 3



Photo 4 Asbestos warning signage and fencing



Photo 5 Spill kit



Photo 6 Bunded COSHH stores





Photo 7 Silt mitigation measures



Photo 8 Extensive silt mitigation measures



Photo 9 Spill kit



Photo 10 Fencing around heritage sites



Photo 11 Good practice - plant nappy in use



## 4. ACTIONS

Non-Conformance	Corrective Action
All issues have been quickly and professionally resolved by the site team.	N/A

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