



National Developments – Response Form

Please use the table below to let us know about projects you think may be suitable for national development status. You can also tell us your views on the existing national developments in National Planning Framework 3, referencing their name and number, and providing reasons as to why they should maintain their status. Please use a separate table for each project or development. **Please fill in a [Respondent Information Form](#) and return it with this form to scotplan@gov.scot.**

Name of proposed national development	Western Isles Electricity Transmission Link as part of existing National Development no. 4
Brief description of proposed national development	A project to connect Renewable electricity generation in the Outer Hebrides to the UK's electricity network (the 'National Grid') through a High Voltage Direct Current Radial Connector running from the nearest Mains Interconnected Transmission System (MITS) National Grid node at Beauly, Highland to Arnish Point, Stornoway. The project, currently at Needs Case / OFGEM approval stage, has an indicative capacity of 600MW and estimated cost of £623.8m. The project will require High Voltage Direct Current Converters and associated Alternating Current Substations at Beauly and at Arnish Point, Stornoway.
Location of proposed national development (information in a GIS format is welcome if available)	From the National Grid Mains Interconnected Transmission System (MITS) node at Beauly, Highland, to Arnish Point, Stornoway. Underground cable from Beauly to Dundonnell and subsea cable from Dundonnell to Arnish Point, Stornoway.
What part or parts of the development requires planning permission or other consent?	The project is fully consented.
When would the development be complete or operational?	The cable will be energised in late 2025 with island Wind Farms connected in early 2026.
Is the development already formally recognised – for example identified in a development plan, has planning permission, in receipt of funding etc.	The Western Isles Electricity Transmission Link forms part of Scotland's 'High Voltage Electricity Transmission Network' which was identified as a National Development in National Planning Framework 3 (2014).

Contribution of proposed national development to the national development criteria (maximum 500 words):

CLIMATE CHANGE

The project will have a significant impact on national carbon emissions as 600MW of Renewable Energy is exported to southern markets via the HVDC cable, displacing the same amount of Fossil Fuel generation. A Government commissioned Study (Baringa, 2016) indicates that, on account of this project, UK carbon emissions will be reduced by 2,780kt by 2045. Nationally, the project will help propel Scotland towards Net Zero by 2045 as it contributes to the quadrupling of Renewable generation called for by the UK's Committee on Climate Change (and endorsed by both Governments). Locally, the project will place 80MW+ of Renewable Energy generation in community ownership, enabling the establishment of a true 'Local Energy Economy' where total island electricity demand is met from zero-carbon on-island Renewable generation. Through this development, the Outer Hebrides could ultimately be completely decarbonised, acting as an exemplar for other island communities across the world.

PEOPLE

The project will enable the construction of three major island Wind Farms and, taken together, the Radial Connector and Wind Farm projects will have a contract value of around £2 billion. A significant proportion of this investment will remain within the islands, boosting the local supply chain and providing new opportunities in employment, services and research and development. This economic security will support the health, wellbeing, sustainability and quality of life of the island population in an unprecedented way and the impacts will be long lasting as islanders are enabled to take control of their own energy destiny through Shared Ownership arrangements. A Government commissioned Study (Baringa, 2016) indicates that the following socio-economic impacts are anticipated through this project: £106m added to Outer Hebrides GVA; 298 new jobs at peak development; 244 new jobs through lifetime O&M; 2,498 new or safeguarded jobs in Scotland; and, 477 new or safeguarded jobs in the wider UK.

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

The project will help rebalance the UK economy and drive regional economic growth precisely in the way envisaged by the UK Industrial Strategy. For the first time in history, the development of critical, nationally important infrastructure is about to take place in areas occupied by some of the UK's most fragile communities. This project will help drive economic growth and socio-economic benefit in areas previously untouched by industrial investment.

PLACE

The project will enable the UK's first Local Energy Economy of scale. The Outer Hebrides will become the UK's Energy Islands as the construction of Wind Farms, enabled by this project, will lead on to the development of a Green Hydrogen Economy. Through this project, the islands will have the capability to become totally decarbonised for heat and transport over time and their sense of place will be transformed.

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