

Colonsay Tourism and Marketing Group
Isle of Colonsay
Argyll and Bute
PA61 7YT

To: Scottish Ministers (Marine Scotland – Marine Directorate)

Via email to MD.MarineRenewables@gov.scot

Objection to the Planning Application for MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm

13th August 2026

Dear Sirs

Ref 00012385 / 00012386. MachairWind offshore wind farm – encompassing 448 km² of sea, and comprising between 91 and 144 turbines up to 335 metres high, located within 6 miles of the Isle of Colonsay.

The Colonsay Tourism and Marketing Group represents the great majority of tourism-related businesses on the island. We wish to formally object to the above proposal.

Tourism is fundamental to Colonsay's economy. The income generated by visitors is intrinsically essential to the viability of tourism enterprises including accommodation, hospitality, retail and sports equipment hire. Any decline in visitor numbers would represent a massive and likely fatal threat to the survivability of these businesses.

A recent survey carried out by the Colonsay community established that all visitors canvassed were opposed to the proposed MachairWind Offshore Wind Farm. The owner of Cuan an Iar, Colonsay's only campsite, has established that none of her recent customers would return to the island if the wind farm was constructed.

Whilst the developers, Scottish Power Renewables, concede that the visual impact from Colonsay would be significant, they have failed to carry out a survey on the impacts on the island's tourism. Nor have they provided any indication as to how the negative impact on tourist numbers could be mitigated.

Scottish Power Renewable have said “Significant landscape and visual effects have been identified on receptors in Colonsay and Oronsay, from a distance of around 14-17 km. This has the potential to affect the attractiveness of the beaches, particularly on the western shore of the island (e.g. Kiloran Bay), though it would not affect features such as wildlife, local heritage, community and walking. Given the majority of features would be unaffected, the impact has been assessed as **low**.” Ref Chapter 18 - Socio Economics. Page 74, 277

Nearly all the assumptions above are completely incorrect and wrong:

1. Visual impact has been High, Major and Significant, not just Significant.
2. Distance is 12.4km, not 14km.
3. Popular beaches such as Machrins and Ardskenish, which are not mentioned will be massively affected. These along with Kiloran are the most popular beaches on the island.
4. Local Heritage will be affected, Oransay priory, its place and setting in the landscape will be severely affected, as documented, and detailed in Colonsay Community Councils submission.
5. Walking will be severely affected. Classic tourist walks across the Western cliffs, and to Pigs Paradise and the bird cliffs will have the open seascape view destroyed.

Visitors to Colonsay are attracted by the island’s remoteness, its peace and tranquillity, and its cultural and natural heritage. Of critical importance are uninterrupted wild landscapes and seascapes. The seascape to the west would be dominated by a massive industrial park, obliterating the very thing that draws people back year after year. In other words, complete anathema to what visitors hold dear.

We fully endorse the objection submitted by Colonsay Community Council, in particular the statement – “tourism is not a sector alongside others; it is the load-bearing wall.” The MachairWind proposal would fatally undermine Colonsay’s tourism, and thus suck the lifeblood out of the island’s economy.

Given the above, we urge Scottish Ministers to reject the application.

Yours faithfully

Trini Graham-Stewart

For and behalf of Colonsay Tourism and Marketing Group