



**Scottish
Water**
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Dear Edwin,

Historic Marine Protected Areas – Scapa Flow, Orkney and “The Queen of Sweden”, Shetland

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your consultation paper on the designation proposal for Scapa Flow (Orkney) and The Queen of Sweden (Shetland).

We fully support the Scottish Government commitment to a “clean, productive, healthy and biologically diverse marine and coastal environment that meets the long term needs of people and nature” and includes protecting the most important heritage sites. We agree with your proposal to protect these historically significant sites through designation as Historic Marine Protected Areas.

We do not have specific comments on the questions raised in the consultation document; however we wish to highlight that while providing treatment and safe return to the environment of society’s wastewater our assets often interact with the marine and coastal environment. Maintaining the integrity of outfalls and pipelines discharging treated wastewater to the sea is vital in providing this essential service. These assets are vulnerable to damage from other activities within the marine environment, we strongly believe that our assets and rights to legitimate, licenced activities should be safe guarded.

Our assets require management, repair and at times replacement, sanctioned marker buoys are inspected and repaired on an annual basis, we note “Table 3 – Operational advice in relation to the proposed Scapa Flow Historic MPA” included within the consultation document. We also note that Historic Environment Scotland can provide detailed operational advice on a case by case basis and that early engagement is encouraged.

Please do not hesitate to contact Doreen.bell@scottishwater.co.uk if you would like more information on the above.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Parsons
Director of Strategic Customer Service Planning

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