



MUCH NEEDED INVESTMENT IN PIERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SOUND OF ULVA MAKES ACCESS SAFER.

Work has been completed on repairs to the pier on the Mull side and to the slipway on the Isle of Ulva. We are delighted to be able to deliver this project within the first 8 months of community ownership.

On the Mull side in particular significant deterioration over recent years meant there was a serious risk of pieces falling off rendering it dangerous to use.

The pier and slipways are vital pieces of infrastructure not only for Ulva and its ferry, but they are also extremely important to the local commercial fishing businesses that operate out of the Sound of Ulva.

As such, their safeguarding and any necessary urgent works were very high up the list of priorities when the Isle of Ulva passed into community ownership.

We are very grateful to Marine Scotland for funding the emergency repairs which involved cutting back loose material and pinning newly cast facing and surfacing as necessary.

Local Mull based company, TSL Contractors (TSL), have done a great job in often challenging conditions working with the tides to ensure everything was in place ready to receive concrete on schedule and take advantage of this month's low spring tides.

John Nicolson, TSL: "We were delighted to be selected to carry out this work in support of the community of Ulva and North West Mull including the fishermen working out of Ulva Ferry for whom these piers are so important."

Rhuri Munro, Ulva resident and fisherman: This is a hugely significant milestone for the community, and the first of many projects we hope to deliver over the coming months and years. It was a pleasure to work with such a great team in TSL and we look forward to working together on other projects in the future."

With the urgent work done, the pier and slipway are now in good shape and safe in their present configuration. Ambitious plans are under consideration for more serious improvements to the infrastructure with widening of the pierhead, provision of storage facilities for fishermen and consideration of different solutions to improve shelter on the Ulva side in difficult weather conditions.

ENDS

Note for editors:

The Isle of Ulva was purchased for the community by the North West Mull Community Woodland Company on June 21st 2018. The purchase was funded largely by the Scottish Land Fund. This fund was set up by the Scottish Government to enable projects such as the Ulva buyout. The surveys carried out on the pier and slipway prior to the repairs were funded by SLF as part of their revenue support in the first two years of the Ulva project.

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North West Mull Community Woodland Company Ltd