

# MiniMet Weather Station, Orkney Islands, UK

*Fathoms Limited is a UK based company who specialise in coastal subsea services. In a recent Alternative Energy Project they installed equipment in the hostile waters off the west coast of the Orkney Islands, which lie off the north coast of mainland Scotland.*

The Highlands and Islands Enterprise wanted to gather data for a Proposed Marine Energy Test Centre, critical to this was a profile of the wave energy and the meteorological conditions available at the proposed site. In October 2001 Fathoms deployed a Datawell WaveRider Buoy to provide information on the direction, frequency and power of the waves. A Skye MiniMet weather station was also installed at a coastal site in the immediate vicinity of the buoy, carefully chosen to avoid the effects of the terrain and local features. The MiniMet is downloaded via the GSM cellular network from Fathoms head office in Somerset, England. More than 6 months data has already been obtained without the need for a site visit.

The installation site on Orkney mainland is shown on the right, with Hoy and Hoy Sound in the background. Since the photo

was taken the MiniMet has been made tidy and fenced in to make it 'coo and ewe' proof (local Scottish animal life!).

Fergus Taylor speaks about the system:

*"Assembly of the mast, modules and sensors was easy. My overall impression of the unit is very good, it is well made and the design well thought out. We found the documentation for the MiniMet and DataHog2 to be comprehensive and easy to follow, with various configurations described in detail. All in all an excellent piece of technical writing! We have had trouble free service from our unit for 6 months. We're very pleased with it's performance and technical support from Skye Instruments has been fabulous."*



Our thanks go to Fergus Taylor at Fathoms Ltd. for this application, photograph and kind comments.