

CAITHNESS - MORAY HVDC REINFORCEMENT

OFFSHORE WORKS

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

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Revision 10 note (all revisions highlighted in yellow background):

1. Updated to reflect changes in method of backfill

GLOSSARY

ABB	ABB AB (<i>Contractor</i>)
BOWL	Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited
CaP	Cable Plan
CAR	Controlled Activities Regulations
FLMAP	Fisheries Liaison and Mitigation Action Plan
FLO	Fisheries Liaison Officer
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
KIS-ORCA	Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables and Cable Awareness
MCA	Maritime & Coastguard Agency
NECRIFG	North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group
MHWS	Mean High Water Springs
MoD	Ministry of Defence
MOW(E)L	Moray Offshore Windfarm (East) Limited
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MS	Marine Scotland (<i>the licensing authority</i>)
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NtM	Notice to Mariners
RYA	Royal Yacht Association
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SHE T	Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Plc (<i>Licensee</i>)
SHEFA	Faroese Telecom Cable
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
TCE	The Crown Estate Scotland
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
UKICPC	UK International Cable Protection Committees
WDC	Whale and Dolphin Conservation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FOREWORD

This latest revision (rev.10) of the Communications Strategy has been updated to reflect the change in scope to allow for cable repairs and burial / backfill. Significant updates are highlighted in yellow.

The Communications Strategy sets out the procedures for the distribution of information relating to all cable installation, protection and survey activities on the Caithness – Moray HVDC Reinforcement project's subsea cable circuit ("the cable") to the fishing industry and other legitimate users of the sea.

The Communications Strategy sets out the liaison procedures that will be followed prior to, during and after the installation of the cable. These procedures have been established to ensure that the cable is planned, installed and operated as safely as possible in accordance with the licence conditions for the project.

SHE T were granted authorisation from the electricity regulator, ofgem, in summer 2014 to proceed to project implementation (i.e. construction, commissioning and operation). The project is required to improve and reinforce the electricity transmission connection between Caithness & Moray (and onwards to the rest of the UK electricity network) to enable connection with new renewable generation capacity in the north of Scotland.

Following on from this authorisation, SHE T applied for and obtained the following marine licences:

- Noss (Caithness) to 12nm limit – licence No. 04368/16/0
- Portgordon (Moray) to 12nm limit – licence No. 04878/13/0
- Outside 12nm limit – licence No. 06043/16/0
- License for marine rock protection works 06600/18/0

SHET are currently requesting variation's to the existing consents to allow for additional rock tonnage, a change in backfill method to include CFE and the potential use of circa 400m of cable protection systems such as Cast iron shells in the shallow water area near Portgordon.

This update to the Communications Strategy has been prepared to reflect any impacts that these variations may have on communications.

A list of the organisations that will be communicated with can be found throughout Section 3.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

MS has specified the following:

The licensee must submit a Communication Strategy to the licensing authority no later than eight weeks prior to the commencement of operations relating to the licence, for their written approval. It is not permissible for operations to commence prior to the granting of such approval. In granting such approval, the licensing authority may consult any such advisors, organisations or stakeholders as may be required at their discretion. The Communication Strategy must document clearly defined procedures for the distribution of information relating to all cable installation, protection and survey activities to the fishing industry and other legitimate users of the sea. The Communication Strategy must include the following:–

- a) Details of the timing, format and method(s) of distribution of notices of all operations relating to the licence including, but not limited to, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), boulder clearance, trenching, cable laying, backfill and additional protection;
- b) Details of the timing, format and method(s) of distribution of notices of hazards to other legitimate users of the sea;
- c) Details of the timing, format and method(s) of distribution of details of any protection requirements including expected berm heights relative to the sea bed (this information must be distributed at least four weeks prior to the commencement of any rock placement); and
- d) Details of the timing, format and method(s) of distribution of as laid position of cables and protection including berm heights relative to the sea bed.

The Communications Strategy has therefore been produced to ensure that SHE T has a robust plan in place for the project that meets the relevant marine licence requirements set out by the Scottish Government.

N.B. The condition above is used to illustrate the requirement and the scope of the requirement, SHET has interpreted it as applying to all maritime works that will be undertaken as part of the Caithness Moray project

2 PROPOSED WORKS

SHET's contractor, ABB have appointed NKT Cables as the Contractor for the HVDC cable portion of the project (including subsea and land cable).

The proposal is to install a HVDC electricity transmission cable circuit across the Moray Firth between Noss Head near Wick in Caithness and Portgordon in Moray. The installed circuit comprises two HVDC cables and a single fibre optic cable. A cross section of the cable configuration is presented in Figure 1 below:



Figure 1: Cable bundle cross-section

The two cables will be bundled together and will be installed wherever possible in a trench. The overall subsea cable length is 113km. The cable route is shown in Figure 2 below.

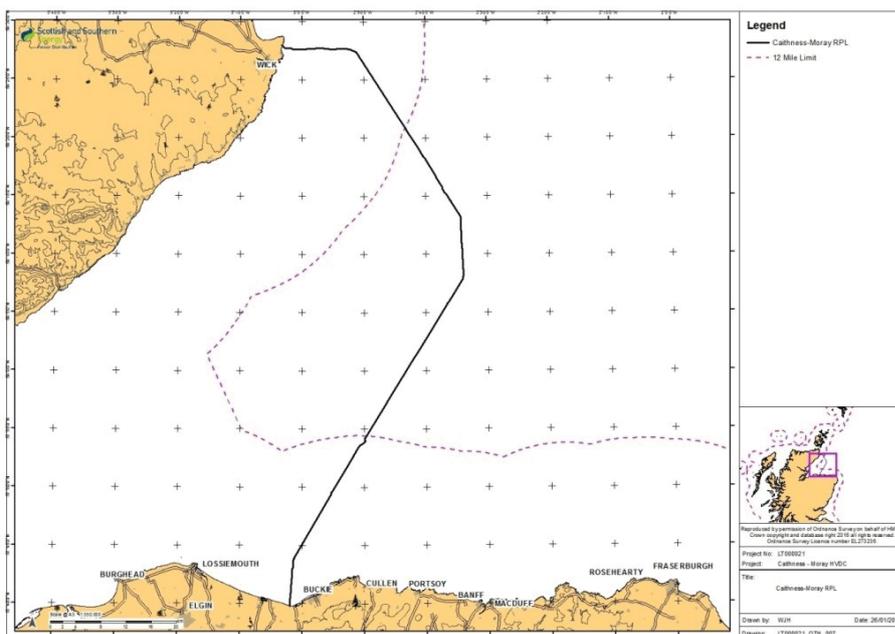


Figure 2: Caithness – Moray cable route.

2.1 INSTALLATION AND BURIAL

In brief, the proposed cable laying method will involve boulder clearance and the creation of a temporary 1.8m deep trench across the Moray Firth by a trenching plough. The cables will then be laid in this trench. The trench will then be mechanically backfilled and any areas of cable that are not buried to a depth of at least 1m will be protected by mechanical backfill or rock armour.

An exception to this is within the Noss MPA where trenching will not be carried out. Instead, protective ducting will be installed.

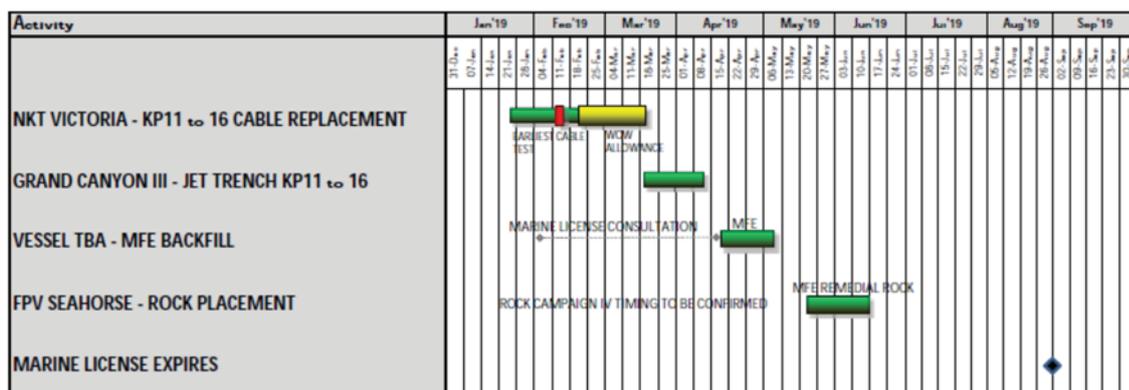
A number of surveys will be undertaken throughout the works.

February 2019 update:

Following the use of the SCAR plough in backfill mode and subsequent identification of damage to the cable NKT has determined that the SCAR system will not be used to backfill the cable trench. As a result of this two additional methods of trench back fill have been identified, these are discussed in more detail in the accompanying method statement. CFE will be used to mobilise sediment in the existing berms back into the trench. Where this does not provide sufficient DOC rock, of suitable size, may be used to backfill the trench. In areas where sufficient natural backfill has occurred no further seabed intervention will take place. In the shallow area near Portgordon a cable protection system (CPS) may be used.

2.2 INSTALLATION PROGRAMME

Below is the proposed timeline for the remaining works.



3 COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

Throughout the project's lifecycle, SHE T has engaged with a variety of stakeholders. A list of the stakeholders can be found below

The relevant stakeholders will be contacted before a planned work activity that has the potential to impact them and, depending on the progress of this activity, it would also be common practice for there to be regular contact throughout the work.

Stakeholders can be divided into the following groups:

- Statutory consultees to MS:
This group comprises:
 - SNH (including JNCC when outside 12nm)
 - SEPA
 - MCA
 - NLB
- Other relevant Stakeholders:
This group comprises all other stakeholders identified in this Communications Strategy.

In addition to statutory stakeholder engagement, SHE T also has a number of obligations where it is necessary to engage with non statutory stakeholders prior to, during and/or upon completion of certain work activities.

In the event that an activity's date or duration was to change out with the dates detailed in [Section 2.2](#), an update will be issued to the affected stakeholders

In the event that the scope or methodology of the planned work activity was to change, then any stakeholder likely to be affected, including any relevant licensing authority, would be consulted. Any change and associated timeline would be agreed prior to the works commencing.

Communication methods to each stakeholder differ depending on the agreements between the parties, however each stakeholder has a nominated point of contact from SHE T. The following methods of communication will be used:

- I. Email;
- II. Telephone call;
- III. Mail drop;
- IV. Newsletters
- V. Face to face meeting;
- VI. Site visits;
- VII. Social Media updates; and/or
- VIII. Notice to Mariners.

Formal communications will take the form of notifications as set out below:

- *Notices to Mariners (NtM):*

Details of the works will be promulgated to all appropriate maritime users, through NtM and/or radio navigational warnings and publication in appropriate bulletins to comply with the conditions in the marine licences. The NtMs will be issued using the UKHO hydrographic note form H102 at the stages of the cable installation set out below:

- HDD works
- boulder clearance
- pre-cut trenching
- cable laying
- post lay cable lowering
- trench backfill
- rock placement
- remedial works at Portgordon HDD ducts
- revised cable pull-ins at Portgordon
- Cable de burial
- Cable repair
- Release of completed areas
- Rock armour placement at Noss Head
- Jet trenching of repair section
- CFE campaign
- Completion of rock placement
- Installation of CPS, if required,

Form H102 will be sent by email as set out below:

To: Source Data Receipt at UK Hydrographic Office, Kingfisher Information Services

CC: Marine Scotland

Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission (SHET) – Lead Project Manager,
Fisheries Liaison Officer & Marine Consents Manager

ABB – Project Installation Manager & Deputy Project Installation Manager

Aberdeen Coastguard Operations & Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)

Buckie Harbour Master

Cromarty Firth Port Authority

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)

MacDuff Harbour Master

North & East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group

Northern Lighthouse Board

Portgordon Harbour Master (via Buckie Harbour Master)
Port of Inverness Harbour Master
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
Scottish Fishermen's Federation
Whale and Dolphin Conservation
Wick Harbour Master

Each NtM will contain full details of the vessel, location, activities, contact details etc. NtMs will be issued, **where possible**, 20 days prior to an activity's start date to allow inclusion in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.

However, in the case of incidents or emergencies requiring notification, the NtM will be issued as soon as reasonably possible. Any actions required to notify an incident or emergency will go ahead even if there is not sufficient time for it to appear in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.

All NtMs will be issued by ABB/ NKT.

- *NtM updates:*

It is intended that the issued NtMs will comprehensively describe the planned activities. However, in the unlikely event that a significant change to these activities becomes apparent, an update will be issued by email to Source Data Receipt at the UK Hydrographic Office and copied to the distribution list set out in the *Notices to Mariners* section above.

- *Notices to static gear fishermen*

The static gear fishermen will receive the NtMs as set out above. However, further specific liaison between SHE T's static gear fishing industry representatives in Wick and Portgordon and the fishermen who will be affected by the installation operations will take place to agree the detailed arrangements for removal of static gear. This will include details of dates and numbers of creels. This liaison takes place nominally one week prior to the planned commencement of the installation operations.

- *Notices to mobile gear fishermen*

The mobile gear fishermen will receive the NtMs as set out above. However, further specific liaison between SHE T's mobile gear fishing industry representatives in the Moray Firth and the fishermen who will be affected by the installation operations will take place to ensure that they are given a minimum of 24 hours notice to remove their gear from the working area(s) of vessels of restricted mobility.

- *Change notifications:*

It is intended that the operations will be carried in accordance with the marine licences. However, in the unlikely event that a significant change to these operations becomes apparent to the extent that compliance may not be achievable, an update will be issued by email to Marine Scotland as soon as is reasonably possible setting out the details of the change and its potential impact on the marine licence conditions. Should this change result in the creation of a hazard to users of the sea.

the process for NtM updates and radio navigation warnings set out above will be followed.

3.1 PORTGORDON HDD

Removed works complete

3.2 NOSS HDD

Removed works complete

3.3 Cable Installation

As described previously the change in backfill method has required additional consultation with the licensing authority Marine Scotland, the SFF, the SWFPA, SNH, WDC and others. This consultation has included telephone discussion, email, presentations and the licence variation process.

The notifications described above will be issued to inform other legitimate users of the sea of the works, points of contact and any specific safety considerations. UKHO chart 115 has been updated to show the cable and Kis ORCA has included the cable in its latest update.

Further to this Guard boats will be utilised to protect the asset and other sea users

3.4 POST COMPLETION

Upon completion of the licenced operations, SHE T will provide to UKHO copies of the marine licences and, wherever possible, as laid plans of the deposits. SHE T will also notify MCA, NLB, KIS-ORCA and UKICPC of the cable route and a 500m zone either side as a hazardous area for anchoring.

Within one week of completion of the licenced operations, SHE T will notify MS of completion of the operations relating to the licences.

Within four weeks of completion of the licenced operations, SHE T will provide MS with details of the nature and quantity of deposits.

Within eight weeks of completion of the licenced operations, SHE T will submit to MS an assessment of any risk posed by the asset and details of burial depths, locations and heights of any rock berms.

