

# CAITHNESS - MORAY HVDC REINFORCEMENT

## OFFSHORE WORKS

### COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

This document contains proprietary information belonging to SSE and/or affiliated companies and shall be used only for the purpose for which it was supplied. It shall not be copied, reproduced, disclosed or otherwise used, nor shall such information be furnished in whole or in part to third parties, except in accordance with the terms of any agreement under which it was supplied or with the prior consent of SSE and shall be returned upon request.

© Copyright of SSE pic 2013

Revision	Date	Prepared by	Reviewed By	Approved By
01	09/06/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
02	30/06/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
03	28/07/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
04	09/08/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
05	19/08/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
06	23/08/16	C.Taylor	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
07	24/08/17	B.Mitchell	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
08	22/12/17	B.Mitchell	P.Watson	B.Mitchell
09	25/07/18	P.Watson	B.Mitchell	A.Small

## Contents

Glossary.....	3
1 Introduction .....	4
1.1 Foreword.....	4
1.2 Purpose of the Communications Strategy.....	5
2 Proposed Works.....	6
2.1 Installation and Burial .....	7
2.2 Installation Programme .....	7
3 Communication Strategy .....	9
3.1 Portgordon HDD .....	12
3.2 Noss HDD .....	15
3.3 Offshore Cable Installation .....	17
3.4 Rock Placement.....	19
3.5 Post Completion.....	22

Revision 9 note (all revisions highlighted in yellow background):

1. Updated to reflect changes in duration and scope

## 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.9) of the Communications Strategy has been updated to reflect the change in scope to allow for cable repairs, burial and extension to the duration over which the works will occur. 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 applying to extend the duration of the existing marine licenses, from an end date of the end of August 2018 to the end of August 2019, SHET also intends to add additional techniques and tooling to the consented options. These will be discussed further in the associated supporting documents.

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.

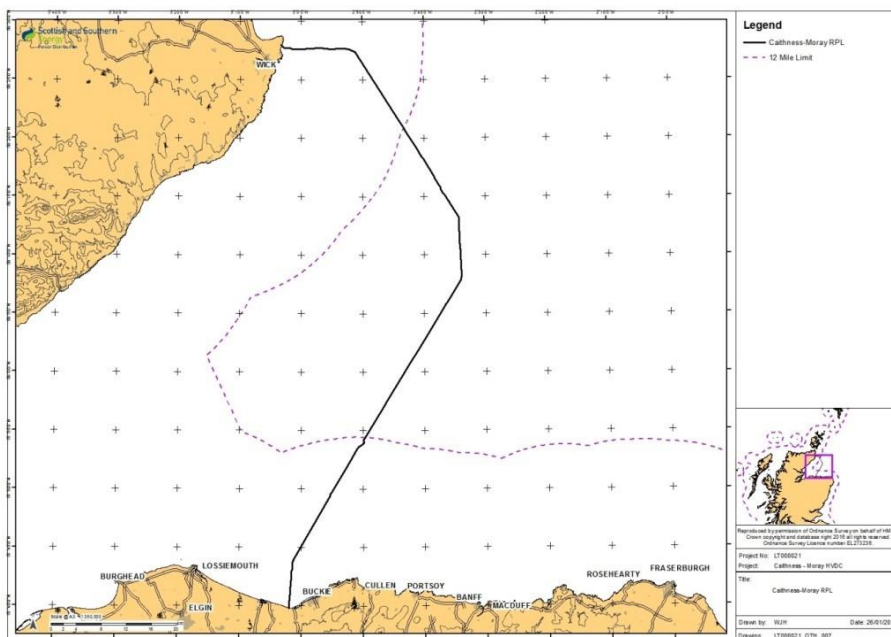


Figure 2: Caithness – Moray cable route.

## 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.

## 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

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 at least 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.

- *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

#### **Marine Scotland (MS)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

MS is the licensing authority for all works and as such all consent conditions that require to be met must be demonstrated to them either upon request or as agreed in the license.

Specific contact with MS will be made by SHET's Marine Consents Manager:

1. prior to commencement of the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to notify the commencement of the HDD works
  - to submit and seek approval of a Communications Strategy (i.e. this document)
  - to submit and seek approval of an CEMP for the HDD works and any subsequent updates at appropriate times
2. during the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to allow access for an authorised Enforcement Officer to inspect the works
  - to notify any changes to the works that may affect the validity of the licence
  - to submit and seek approval of plans to mitigate navigational dangers or risks, where required
3. on completion of the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to notify the completion of the HDD works

#### **Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Lead Environmental Project Manager.

SNH are a consultee to Marine Scotland.

#### **Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

The JNCC are a consultee to Marine Scotland.

#### **Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) including Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMG)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

The MCA are also a consultee to Marine Scotland.

Contact with MCA will be maintained prior to and during the HDD installation to ensure that they are aware of the licenced operations, the presence of support vessels at the exit points and of the presence of the HDD casings on the seabed once the HDDs are complete.

#### **Whale and Dolphin Conservation (WDC)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Lead Environmental Project Manager.

The Moray Firth is globally recognised as an area where cetaceans are present. The HDD installation may therefore have an impact on their environment, particularly during times

when a support vessel is in position at the exit points. SHE T will therefore maintain close contact with the WDC prior to and during the HDD installation.

### **Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Lead Environmental Project Manager. However, ABB may also communicate with SEPA regarding, for example, CAR licensing and waste transfer.

SEPA will be contacted regarding matters relating to the onshore aspects of the HDD installation only relating to CAR licensing, if required.

### **Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

The SFF represent predominately the mobile commercial fishing fleet that operate in deeper waters in the Moray Firth i.e. outside the HDD works area however, as part of ongoing regular liaison with the SFF, SHE T will keep them apprised of the installation as it proceeds, specifically in relation to the presence of support vessels at the exit points and of the presence of the HDD casings on the seabed once the HDDs are complete

### **North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group (NECRIFG) –**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

This organisation's members are predominantly local fishermen who operate near the area of planned works. Regular dialogue between the FLM and the RIFG will be maintained prior to and during the HDD installation work, noting that both mobile and static gear commercial fishing operations are present in the area. SHE T will also liaise with individual members regarding potential compensation for loss of earnings due to requested creel removal.

### **Unaffiliated commercial fishermen**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

SHE T is aware of independent commercial fishing operators who are not affiliated with either the SFF or the North and East Coast RIFG. The FLM is aware of these individuals and will maintain liaison with them, particularly in relation to the requirement to remove creels to allow the works to be carried out. SHE T will also liaise with these individuals regarding potential compensation for loss of earnings due to requested creel removal.

### **The Crown Estate Scotland**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Land Settlements Manager.

TCE manage property belonging to the Sovereign. Part of the HDD installation (seaward of MHWS) is located within Sovereign territory and, as such, SHE T is required to obtain permission via a licence from TCE to use the land. The licence has been obtained. It is not envisaged that any further communication will be required with TCE until the entire cable circuit from Moray to Caithness is energised.

### **United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager. However, ABB will also communicate with UKHO regarding, for example, NtMs.

SHE T will maintain contact with the UKHO to provide regular updates on progress of the works, provide a copy of the marine licence and provide as-built details upon completion.

ABB will maintain contact with the UKHO via NtMs.

### **Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables and Cable Awareness (KIS-ORCA)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager. However, ABB may also communicate with KIS-ORCA regarding, for example, NtMs.

SHE T will maintain contact with KIS-ORCA to provide details of dangers to navigation, should they occur during the works. Furthermore, SHE T will provide KIS-ORCA with as-built details of the installation for the purpose of identifying it as a hazardous area for anchoring.

ABB will maintain contact with the KIS-ORCA via NtMs.

### **Ministry of Defence (MoD)**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Consents Manager.

The MoD regularly uses the Moray Firth both for exercise and routine national defence operations. The MoD would also be a key contact for other defence agencies that may share in such activities therefore communication between SHE T and the MoD is essential to ensure that neither party's operations are conflicting.

### **Buckie Harbour**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

However, ABB may also communicate with the Buckie Harbour Master regarding, for example, NtMs.

SHE T will maintain contact with the Buckie Harbour Master to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect fishing activities.

ABB will maintain contact with the Buckie Harbour Master via NtMs.

### **Portgordon Harbour**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

Portgordon harbour is currently un-manned therefore, any matters that may relate to operations based there will be communicated via the Harbour Master at Buckie Harbour (see directly above).

However, communication will be maintained with the Portgordon Community Harbour Group.

### **Royal Yacht Association**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

SHE T will maintain contact with the RYA to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect recreational sailing in the area of the works.

### **Local marine tourist operators**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Community Liaison Manager for the Moray local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with the local marine tourist operators to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect recreational sailing in the area of the works.

### **Local Residents**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Community Liaison Manager for the Moray local authority area.

Contact with the local residents will continue to be made regularly in a variety of ways. Email, telephone, public meetings, social media, mail drop and liaison with local community groups are amongst the methods that will continue to be adopted. A biannual newsletter is also produced and delivered by post to all properties in the local area.

### **Lennox Community Council**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Community Liaison Manager for the Moray local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with Lennox Community Council to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect the local area.

## **3.2 NOSS HDD**

### **Marine Scotland**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

MS is the licensing authority for all works and as such all consent conditions that require to be met must be demonstrated to them either upon request or as agreed in the license.

Specific contact with MS will be made:

1. prior to commencement of the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to notify the commencement of the HDD works
  - to submit and seek approval of a Communications Strategy (i.e. this document)
  - to submit and seek approval of an CEMP for the HDD works and any subsequent updates at appropriate times
2. during the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to allow access for an authorised Enforcement Officer to inspect the works
  - to notify any changes to the works that may affect the validity of the licence
  - to submit and seek approval of plans to mitigate navigational dangers or risks, where required
3. on completion of the HDD works for the following purposes:
  - to notify the completion of the HDD works

### **Scottish Natural Heritage**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Lead Environmental Project Manager.

SNH have a specific interest in the Noss HDD works as the exit point location on the seabed and the associated local cable laying operations are in the vicinity of the Noss Head MPA.

### **Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Scottish Environmental Protection Agency**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Scottish Fishermen’s Federation**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group –**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **The Crown Estate Scotland**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **United Kingdom Hydrographic Office**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Ministry of Defence**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Wick Harbour**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project’s Fisheries Liaison Manager.

However, ABB may also communicate with the Wick Harbour Master regarding, for example, NtMs.

SHE T will maintain contact with the Wick Harbour Master to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect fishing activities.

ABB will maintain contact with the Wick Harbour Master via NtMs.

### **Local Tourist Operators**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project’s Community Liaison Manager for the Highland local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with the local marine tourist operators to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect recreational sailing in the area of the works.

### **Local Residents**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project’s Community Liaison Manager for the Highland local authority area.

Contact with the local residents will continue to be made regularly in a variety of ways. Email, telephone, public meetings, social media, mail drop and liaison with local community groups are amongst the methods that will continue to be adopted. A biannual newsletter is also produced and delivered by post to all properties in the local area.

### **Clan Sinclair Trust**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project’s Community Liaison Manager for the Highland local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with the Clan Sinclair Trust to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect the local area.

### **Sinclair’s Bay Community Council**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project’s Community Liaison Manager for the Highland local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with Sinclair's Bay Community Council to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect the local area.

### **Wick Community Council**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Community Liaison Manager for the Highland local authority area.

SHE T will maintain contact with Wick Community Council to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect the local area.

## **3.3 OFFSHORE CABLE INSTALLATION**

### **Marine Scotland**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Marine Consents Manager.

MS is the licensing authority for all works and as such all consent conditions that require to be met must be demonstrated to them either upon request or as agreed in the license.

Specific contact with MS will be made:

1. prior to commencement of the works for the following purposes:
  - to submit and seek approval of a cumulative impact review, if necessary
  - to notify the commencement of the works
  - to submit and seek approval of any updates to the CaP at appropriate times (specifically, when further information relating to the planned rock placement quantities becomes available)
  - to submit and seek approval of any updates to the FLMAP at appropriate times
  - to submit and seek approval of a Communications Strategy (i.e. this document)
  - to submit and seek approval of an CEMP and any subsequent updates at appropriate times
  - to agree recipients of real-time data relating to the planned works
2. during the works for the following purposes:
  - to allow access for an authorised Enforcement Officer to inspect the works
  - to notify any changes to the works that may affect the validity of the licence
  - to submit and seek approval of plans to mitigate navigational dangers or risks, where required
  - to submit and seek approval of any updates to the CaP at appropriate times (specifically, when further information relating to the planned rock placement quantities becomes available i.e. post-trenching, post-cable laying and post-mechanical backfill)
3. on completion of the works for the following purposes:
  - to notify the completion of the works
  - to submit a written report on the nature and quantity of deposits
  - to submit an assessment of any risks posed by the installed cable

### **Scottish Natural Heritage**



Refer to Section 3.1

**Joint Nature Conservation Committee**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Maritime and Coastguard Agency**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Whale and Dolphin Conservation**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Scottish Environmental Protection Agency**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Scottish Fishermen's Federation**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

The SFF represent predominately the mobile commercial fishing fleet that operates in deeper waters in the Moray Firth. SHE T will engage with the SFF formally at regular meetings (also attended by representatives from MS) to ensure that the operations of both parties are planned to mitigate any interface.

Furthermore, SHE T will update the SFF when further information relating to the planned rock placement quantities becomes available i.e. post-trenching, post-cable laying and post-mechanical backfill).

**North and East Coast Regional Inshore Fisheries Group**

The key point of contact within SHE T is the project's Fisheries Liaison Manager.

This organisation's members are predominantly local fishermen who operate near the area of planned works. Regular dialogue between the FLM and the RIFG will be maintained prior to and during the cable installation work, noting that both mobile and static gear commercial fishing operations are present in the area. SHE T will also liaise with individual members regarding potential compensation for loss of earnings due to requested creel removal.

**The Crown Estate Scotland**

Refer to Section 3.1

**United Kingdom Hydrographic Office**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Ministry of Defence**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Buckie Harbour**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Portgordon Harbour**

Refer to Section 3.1

**Wick Harbour**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Royal Yacht Association**

Refer to Section 3.1

### **Local tourist operators**

Refer to Section 3.1 and 3.2

### **Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited (BOWL)**

The key point of contact is the project's Lead Project Manager for the offshore installation.

Communication with BOWL will be required to ensure that technical, physical and programming interfaces are mitigated, particularly within the first 8km off the Moray coast where the BOWL export cable and this project's cable are relatively close to each other.

### **Moray Offshore Renewables Limited (MOW(E)L)**

The key point of contact is the project's Lead Project Manager for the offshore installation.

Communication with MOW(E)L will be required to ensure that technical and physical interfaces are mitigated, particularly where the 4 No. MOW(E)L circuits are planned to cross this project's installed cable in the Moray Firth.

The project has no programming interface with MOW(E)L as the MOW(E)L installation programme commences after this project's offshore installation is complete.

### **Oil and gas exploration (Suncor Energy, Premier Oil and First Oil Expro)**

The key point of contact is the project's Lead Project Manager for offshore installation.

Regular communication between these companies and SHE T will be required as the cable is located in places within DECC licenced exploration blocks.

### **SHEFA**

The key point of contact is the project's Lead Project Manager for offshore installation.

SHEFA have an existing telecoms asset (the SHEFA2 communications cable) that the C-M cable will be installed in close proximity to. Regular communication between SHEFA and SHE T will be maintained to ensure that SHEFA are aware of the works and that physical interface is avoided.

### **Portgordon and Buckie Residents**

Refer to Section 3.1 and 3.2 (Local Residents).

### **Wick, Staxigoe and Papigoe Residents**

Refer to Section 3.2 (Local Residents)

## **3.4 ROCK PLACEMENT**

### Marine Licence provision

Rock will be required in places to provide the installed cable with the necessary level of physical protection where the use of excavated arisings from the trench is inadequate.

Approximately 340 000 T of rock is consented across the project, utilisation to date is approximately 80% i.e. project rock placement is approximately 272 000 T of the consented 340 000 T.

The cable installation will be carried out in the following distinct sequence:

- Pre-lay UXO (unexploded ordnance) survey
- Boulder clearance
- Post boulder clearance survey
- Trenching – first pass
- Trenching – second pass
- Post trenching survey
- Cable laying
- Post cable laying survey
- Post lay cable lowering
- Post lay cable lowering survey
- Mechanical backfill
- **Emergency fault identification and repair**
- Rock placement
- Post rock placement survey

The works described above and the associated survey work allow the level of protection available to the cable to be determined. Subsequently, the requirement of additional protection can be determined. i.e. should the depth of lowering or depth of cover be insufficient to protect the cable then additional protection will be required either in the form of additional cable lowering work or by the addition of protection system such as TekMar, used at the horse mussel bed crossing or rock placement either in trench or above mean seabed level.

The cable protection will be discussed and agreed with marine Scotland and the relevant consultees prior to the works being undertaken, unless the work for part of an emergency.

### 3.5 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.