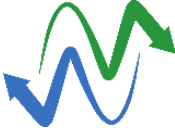

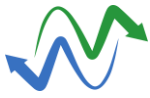


NORTHCONNECT
CONNECTING RENEWABLES

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HVDC Cable Infrastructure - UK Marine Communications Strategy

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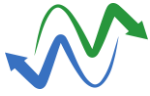


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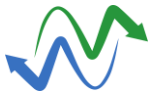
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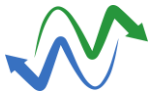
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1. ABBREVIATIONS

HVAC	High Voltage Alternating Current
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
HDD	Horizontal Directional Drilling
JV	Joint Venture
MW	Megawatt
UKEEZ	United Kingdom Exclusive Economic Zone
MS	Marine Scotland
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Council
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
MCA	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
NLB	Northern Lighthouse Board
NtM	Notice to Mariners
UKHO	United Kingdom Hydrographic Office
RYA(S)	Royal Yachting Association (Scotland)
SFF	Scottish Fishermen's Federation
SWFPA	Scottish White Fish Producers Association
SFO	Scottish Fishermen's Organisation
BIFA	Buchan Inshore Fisheries Association
FIF Ltd	Fraserburgh Inshore Fishermen Ltd



2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

NorthConnect is a project set up to develop, consent, build, and operate an HVDC electrical interconnector between Peterhead in Scotland and Simadalen in Norway. The 665km long, 1400MW interconnector will provide an electricity transmission link allowing the two nations to exchange power and increase use of renewable energy. The intention is for the HVDC interconnector to be operational by 2023.

NorthConnect is a Joint Venture (JV) project company owned by four community and state-owned partners from Norway and Sweden: Agder Energi AS, E-CO Energi AS, Lyse Produksjon AS, and Vattenfall AB. The partnership was established on 1st February 2011. Figure 2.1 provides an schematic of the main components.

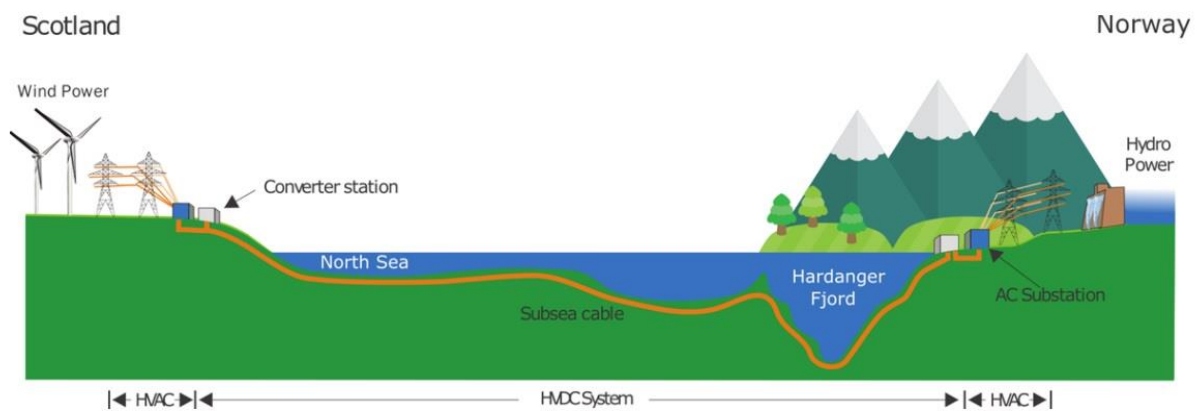


Figure 2.1: Project Components

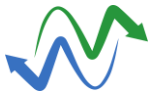
The HVDC Cable Infrastructure – UK Construction Method Statement (NorthConnect, 2018a) provides full details on the planned construction and associated marine survey activities in Scottish Territorial Waters (STW) and the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (UKEEZ). Details on operational surveys are provided in the HVDC Cable Infrastructure - Post Installation Survey Plan (NorthConnect, 2018b).

3. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Communications Strategy sets out the procedures for the distribution of information relating to all cable installation, protection and survey activities on the NorthConnect project’s HVDC subsea cable infrastructure (“the cables”) 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 cables. These procedures have been established to ensure that the cables are planned, installed and operated as safely as possible in accordance and will include details of timing format and method(s) of distribution of:

- a) Notices of all operations relating to the installation including, but not limited to, horizontal directional drilling (HDD), trenching, cable laying, backfill and additional protection, and associated surveys;
- b) Notices of hazards to other legitimate users of the sea; and
- c) As laid position of cables and protection relative to the sea bed.



4. COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Throughout the project's lifecycle, NorthConnect has engaged with a variety of stakeholders. NorthConnect will be in regular contact with relevant stakeholders for the duration of the work. Relevant stakeholders will be contacted before a specific planned work activity that has the potential to affect them.

Stakeholders include the both Statutory consultees to Marine Scotland and other non-statutory stakeholders who may have an interest in the project. NorthConnect wishes to engage with all relevant 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 outwith the dates initially provided, 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 NorthConnect, detailed in Section 6. The following methods of communication will be used as appropriate:

- Email;
- Telephone call;
- WhatsApp Groups;
- Direct mail;
- Newsletters
- Face to face meetings;
- Kingfisher bulletins;
- Social Media updates; and
- Notice to Mariners.

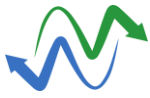
Formal communications methods are discussed in more detail in this section.

4.1 HVDC Cable Installation Newsletters

HVDC Cable Installation Newsletters will be issued to Kingfisher Information Services, for publication through their Awareness Flyers. In addition, a copy of the newsletter (and a link to the electronic version) will be issued to Fishing News as well as hard copies being distributed to the local fishing community onshore: hand delivered to vessels in harbour; posted and emailed to relevant bodies; and hard copies left in appropriate locations utilized by the marine community (for example the Harbour Office and Fisherman Mission) and will be available for download from the NorthConnect website.

Newsletters will be issued at the following stages of the project:

- After Contractor appointed to give overview of survey and installation programme - at least 8 weeks in advance of marine works;
- Prior to initial works – at least 4 weeks in advance of marine works;
- Prior to new phases of work – at least 2 weeks in advance; and
- At relevant programme stages including completion of works – as required.



4.2 Notices to Mariners

Details of the works will be issued to all appropriate maritime users through Notice to Mariners (NtM) and/or radio navigational warnings and publication in bulletins required. The NtM will be issued using the UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) hydrographic note form H102 at the stages of the cable installation set out below:

- HDD works in the marine environment
- Sea bed clearance (where required)
- Pre-cut trenching (where required)
- Cable laying
- Rock placement
- Survey works

Each NtM will contain full details of the vessel, location, activities, contact details and any other relevant information. NtM will be issued at least 20 days prior to an activity's start date (whenever practicable) to allow inclusion in the Kingfisher Fortnightly Bulletin.

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 the cable contractor. The distribution list will include:

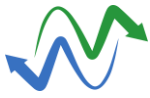
- Main recipient:
 - Source Data Receipt at UK Hydrographic Office, Kingfisher Information Services
- Copied to:
 - Marine Scotland;
 - Trinity House;
 - Peterhead Lifeboat Station;
 - Crown Estate Scotland;
 - Buchan Inshore Fisheries Group;
 - Northern Lighthouse Board;
 - Scottish Fishermen's Federation;
 - Scottish White Fish Producers Association
 - Peterhead Harbour Master;
 - Fraserburgh Harbour Master; and
 - Aberdeen Harbour Master.

4.2.1 Notice to Mariners Updates

It is intended that the issued NtM 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 UKHO and copied to the distribution list set out above in the *Notices to Mariners* section 4.2.

4.3 Static Gear Fishermen

Locally affected static gear fishermen will receive the NtMs as set out above. However, the NorthConnect FLO will work local fisheries representatives in order to identify the fishermen who will be affected by the project. Discussions will then take place with the affected fishermen to agree the detailed arrangements for removal of static gear well in advance of marine activities. Specific notifications will be given one week prior to the planned commencement of the installation operations.



4.4 Mobile Gear Fishermen

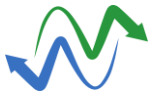
Mobile gear fishermen will receive the NtMs as set out above. However, further specific liaison between the NorthConnect FLO and the fishermen who will be affected by the installation operations will take place to ensure that they are clear of the working area(s) of construction vessels prior to construction.

4.5 Information Posters

Posters regarding the project will be circulated to all appropriate venues both locally and further afield (e.g. in the case of recreational marinas via the RYA) which will include, but not be limited to, Port Authority Harbour Offices, Fisherman’s Missions, and other locations such as fish markets which agree to display the poster. These will outline programme activity and signpost to the website, the FLO and the Communications Manager for further information/to give feedback. These will be issued at the same time as the first newsletter regarding the installation programme.

4.6 Direct Contact

Reminders about the programme of works will be made directly by email/What’sApp by the FLO to all those fishermen who have asked to be kept informed via the consultation process, at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of any works. NorthConnect will also request member bodies such as Scottish Fisheries Federation (SFF) and Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA) remind their members by email at least one week in advance of the works commencing.



5. COMMUNICATION METHODS

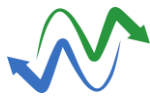
A variety of communication tools will be used to create a flow of information between NorthConnect and marine stakeholders. As well as disseminating key information regarding the construction/installation process, NorthConnect will ensure open channels of communication in order to allow stakeholders to feed into the process so as to help mitigate any potential hazards which might arise.

Having an open two-way communication platform is an essential element in ensuring a smooth installation process and contact details of the FLO and/or Communications Manager will be included in all communications methods used as well as signposting for further project information to the NorthConnect website.

Table 6.1 details the methods to be employed to communicate with various stakeholder groups.

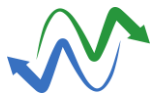
Table 6.1: Proposed Stakeholder Communication Methods

Stakeholder	Direct									Indirect			
	Face to Face Meetings	Newsletter	Whatsapp	Email	Telephone	Posters to Display	Social Media	Regular CC Meetings	Letter	Notice to Mariners	Kingfisher Bulletin	Press advertising	Website updates
Inshore Fisheries:													
Buchan Inshore Fisheries Association (BIFA)													
Unaffiliated Fishermen;													
National Organisations:													
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF);													
Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)													
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO)													
Peterhead Harbour													
Neighbouring Harbour Authorities and inshore fisheries associations (e.g. FIFAs)													
Marine and Coastguard Agency (MCA)													
Marine Safety Forum													
Northern Lighthouse Board (NLB)													
Local Fisheries Trusts													
Local recreational sailing bodies													
RYA(S)													
Local marine tourist operators													
Local recreational sub aqua bodies													
Oil & Gas operators and contractors													
Offshore renewables interests													
Commercial ferry operators													
Community Council													
Marine Scotland													

**KEY STAKEHOLDER CONTACTS**

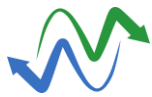
The following table outlines the key stakeholders, their role and the purpose of communication and the Key Contact for NorthConnect.

Stakeholder	Role	NorthConnect Key Contact
Marine Scotland (MS)	<p>Licensing authority for all marine 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.</p> <p>Specific contact with MS will be made by NorthConnect's UK Permitting Manager:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To notify the commencement of the works;• During the works for the following purposes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to provide project updates.• On completion of the works for the following purposes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ to notify the completion of the works and submit appropriate completion reports.	UK Permitting Manager
Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)	Statutory consultee to MS	UK Permitting Manager
Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), including Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMG)	Statutory consultee to MS. Contact with MCA will be maintained prior to and during the installation to ensure that they are aware of the licenced operations, the presence of support vessels and of the presence of cable protection on the seabed once the cable lay is complete.	Communications Manager
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)	SEPA will be contacted regarding matters relating to the onshore aspects of the HDD installation only relating to CAR licensing, if required.	UK Permitting Manager and/or Main Contractor
Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF)	<p>The SFF represent the mobile commercial fishing fleet that operate in deeper waters in the North Sea and as part of ongoing regular liaison with the SFF, NorthConnect will keep them apprised of the installation as it proceeds, specifically in relation to the presence of support vessels and of the presence of the cable protection on the seabed once the cable is laid.</p> <p>NorthConnect will continue to rely on the SFF to provide updates to its members regarding the progress of the project and will provide information to facilitate this. NorthConnect will also seek the views of the SFF regarding issues of strategic importance.</p>	Communications Manager / FLO
Scottish White Fish Producers Association (SWFPA)	<p>The SWFPA represent the white fish commercial fishing fleet that operate in the North Sea and are members of the SFF. As part of ongoing regular liaison with the SWFPA, NorthConnect will keep them apprised of the installation as it proceeds, specifically in relation to the presence of support vessels and of the presence of the cable protection on the seabed once the cable is laid. This is particularly pertinent to the prawn trawlers who are</p>	Communications Manager / FLO



HVDC CABLE INFRASTRUCTURE UK MARINE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Stakeholder	Role	NorthConnect Key Contact
	<p>members of SWFPA.</p> <p>NorthConnect will also rely on the SWFPA to continue to provide updates to its members regarding the progress of the project and will provide information to facilitate this. NorthConnect will also seek the views of the SWFPA regarding issues of strategic importance.</p>	
Scottish Fishermen's Organisation (SFO)	The SFO is the biggest Fish Producer Organisation in the UK and as such, NorthConnect will keep them apprised of the installation as it proceeds, specifically in relation to the presence of support vessels and of the presence of the cable protection on the seabed once the cable is laid.	Communications Manager / FLO
Buchan Inshore Fisheries Group (BIFA)	This organisation's members are predominantly local fishermen who operate near and in the area of planned works. Regular dialogue between the FLO and BIFA will be maintained prior to and during the installation work, noting that both mobile and static gear commercial fishing operations are present in the area.	FLO
Fraserburgh Inshore Fisheries Ltd (FIF Ltd)	This organisation's members are predominantly local fishermen who operate to the north of the area of planned works. Updates will be provided through dialogue between the FLO and BIFA as a matter of courtesy.	FLO
Unaffiliated commercial fishermen	NorthConnect is aware of independent commercial fishing operators who are not affiliated with either the SFF, SWFPA or BIFA. The FLO is aware of these individuals and will maintain liaison with them, particularly in relation to the requirement to remove creels to allow works to be carried out.	FLO
Crown Estate Scotland	CES manage property belonging to the Sovereign. Part of the HDD installation (seaward of MHWS) is located within Sovereign territory and, as such, NorthConnect is required to obtain permission via a licence from CES to use the land. The licence has been obtained. It is not envisaged that any further communication will be required with CES until the entire cable from Scotland to Norway is energised.	UK Permitting Manager
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)	NorthConnect will maintain contact with the UKHO to provide regular updates on progress of the works, and provide a copy of the marine licence and provide as-built details upon completion.	Marine Project Manager/ Main contractor
Kingfisher Information Service Offshore Renewables and Cable Awareness (KIS- ORCA)	NorthConnect will maintain contact with KIS-ORCA to provide details of dangers to navigation, should they occur during the works. Furthermore, NorthConnect will provide KIS-ORCA with as-built details of the installation for the purpose of identifying it as a hazardous area for anchoring.	Marine Project Manager/ Main contractor
Ministry of Defence	The MoD regularly uses the North Sea both for exercise and	UK Permitting Manager



Stakeholder	Role	NorthConnect Key Contact
(MoD)	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 NorthConnect and the MoD is essential to ensure that neither party's operations are conflicting.	/Marine Project Manager
Peterhead Harbour	NorthConnect will maintain contact with the Peterhead Harbour Master to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect commercial activities at the port.	Marine Project Manager/ Main contractor
Royal Yacht Association	NorthConnect 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.	Communications Manager
Local marine tourist operators	NorthConnect will maintain contact with the local marine tourist operators to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect recreational sailing/fishing in the area of the works.	Communications Manager
Community Councils	NorthConnect will maintain contact with Boddam and District Community Council to provide details of planned and ongoing operations that may affect the local area.	Communications Manager
Local Residents	Contact with the local residents will continue to be made regularly in a variety of ways. Email, text, telephone, face to face contact, social media and liaison with local community groups are amongst the methods that will continue to be used. A regular newsletter is also produced and delivered by hand to all properties in the local area.	Communications Manager

6. POST COMPLETION

Upon completion of the licensed operations, NorthConnect will provide to UKHO copies of the as laid plans of the cable location and cable protection (where appropriate). NorthConnect will also notify MCA, NLB, KIS-ORCA and the Crown Estates Scotland of the cable route.

Post installation surveys will be required during the lifetime of the project (NorthConnect, 2018b) and NorthConnect will liaise and communicate with relevant stakeholders prior to survey work and use the statutory process of notification as detailed in this strategy.

7. REFERENCES

NorthConnect. (2018a). HVDC Cable Infrastructure - UK Construction Method Statement. In F. Henderson (Ed.).
NorthConnect. (2018b). HVDC Cable Infrastructure - UK Post Installation Survey Plan. In Jonathan Ashburner (Ed.).