

Delivering the project offshore

With preparatory works offshore now well underway to clear the cable route, offshore construction will commence later this year. This will begin with the installation of the turbine foundations from the Cromarty Firth, in addition to the offshore substations and export cables. The wind turbines will be installed in early 2024, also from Cromarty Firth.



Typical turbine installation

About Moray West

Moray West Offshore Wind Farm is a project being developed by Ocean Winds, who have majority interest in the neighbouring Moray East project. Having commenced close consultation with the community in 2016, all offshore and onshore consents are in place, and construction of the project has been underway since early last year.

Moray West will deliver multiple positive socio-economic impacts in the local community as well as a secure, reliable source of energy as an important step in combating climate change and achieving net-zero emissions. We are committed to supporting the Scottish and UK supply chain and are working in close partnership with local businesses, suppliers and skills providers to ensure that opportunities are realised.

To find out more about our commitments to the supply chain, local skills development and employment opportunities, visit our website at www.moraywest.com. Vacancies are advertised on the [Ocean Winds LinkedIn page](#).

Keep in touch

Moray West is committed to close and continued engagement with the local community as construction of the wind farm continues. Please keep in touch, and send us your queries and comments.

- You can view our plans in detail at our website: www.moraywest.com
- Any other questions or inquiries about the project can be sent to info@moraywest.co.uk or our Stakeholder Manager Roger McMichael at roger.mcmichael@oceanwinds.com or 07717 367 150.
- If you have any questions or issues during the onshore cabling works, our enquiry line is in operation 24/7 at 01343 250010 and our operatives will direct your query to the appropriate place.

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Moray West Offshore Wind Farm

Spring 2023

Welcome to the latest **Moray West Offshore Wind Farm** newsletter.

In this newsletter, you can find more details on the onshore and offshore works that are underway to construct the wind farm, and how you can keep in touch with our team.

Construction has been underway since early 2022 – putting Moray West Offshore Wind Farm on track to generate first power in 2024, delivering a major boost to Scotland's green energy generation and creating long-term local jobs.

Update on Moray West construction works

Since our last newsletter in November 2022:

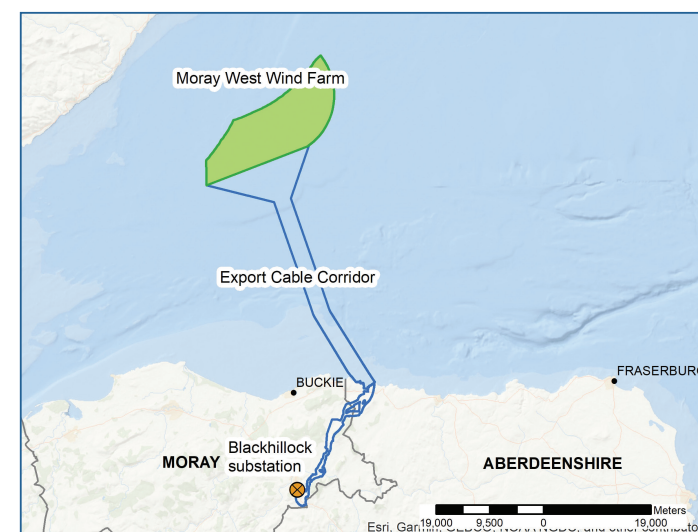
- Construction of the onshore electrical infrastructure, which commenced in early 2022, has made significant progress. The project is on track to commence construction of the offshore elements in summer 2023, and generate first power from 2024.
- We have completed Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) of approximately 400m in two adjacent locations at the

point of landfall at Broad Craig. These works will allow the offshore export cables to be pulled through the ducts under the nearshore area and be connected to the onshore circuits at the shore. These marine HDD works are expected to complete within the coming weeks.

- Preparatory offshore works have commenced along the offshore cable route, with initial surveys to identify and safely remove any unexploded ordnance (UXO). Boulder clearance is underway, and will be followed by a 'prelay grapnel run' (PLGR) which will clear the route, making way for the cable installation to begin later in the year.

- Enabling works for the new substation at Whitehilllock have now completed, with construction of the substation now underway.

- The main construction compound for the onshore cable works, which is the strategic hub for core project management, has been established. It is expected that up to four construction compounds, including the landfall site, will be required along the cable route to support the onshore works.



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Delivering the project onshore

Cable Corridor

Onshore construction is well underway and is due to complete in early 2024. Offshore construction will commence later this year - putting the project on track to generate first power in mid-2024. The cable route corridor will run from the landfall Transition Joint Bay at Broad Craig to the new Moray West substation located at Whitehillock. It will then run on to the existing Scottish Hydro Electric Transmission Blackhillock substation. The length between the landfall point and Blackhillock is approximately 31km, with a typical working width during construction of 30m.

Much of the site fencing is now in place, with the two main construction compounds (off the A98 and the A96) established. Ducting installation has now commenced, with cables being installed from the summer through to the end of 2023.



Example image of an AIL

Deliveries

Installation of Super Grid Transformers is expected to commence in May. The transformers are used at grid connection points to step up voltage for efficient power transmission.

The transformers will be delivered by abnormal indivisible load (AIL) vehicles, which will travel from Buckie Harbour to the new Whitehillock substation following the indicated route. There will be a moving road closure starting just before the AIL vehicle enters a road section, with the road being reopened once the AIL vehicle leaves that section of road. The transit time from Buckie to Whitehillock will be in the region of 4-6 hours. Detailed information will be widely shared with the community prior to these AIL movements.

Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Base

Alterations to the former 'Drifter' museum in Buckie have been completed, allowing the Construction Management Services team of the project to support the marine works from Buckie. Once offshore construction commences, personnel will travel to the wind farm site daily in Crew Transfer Vessels (CTVs).

The existing harbour office and adjacent sheds are being demolished to make way for the new, permanent O&M base which will house ~60 staff who will maintain the wind farm once it is operational. Construction of the O&M base will complete in mid 2024 in time for first power from the wind farm.



O&M Base, Buckie

Whitehillock Substation

Construction of the new Whitehillock Substation has been underway since May 2022, and will complete in early 2024. The new substation is required to step up the voltage to allow the Moray West project to connect to the National Grid transmission infrastructure at the nearby Blackhillock substation.

The Whitehillock location, off the A96, has been chosen due to the proximity to the trunk road network and will be screened visually by the Pitlurg Wood shelter belt. The shelter belt will not be felled during construction and a landscaping plan will further screen the new substation.



Whitehillock Substation in winter snow

Establishing the point of landfall at Broad Craig

Works on the landfall point, where the offshore cables meet the shore, are well underway and will continue into late 2023. The works are avoiding the Site of Special Scientific Interest that runs along the coast, and will maintain access to the beach, paths and surrounding amenities. There will be a process of site restoration at the end of the construction works so that the only visible footprint of the project in the vicinity of Sandend will be the manhole access to the cable Joint Bay at the landfall, with the Joint Bay below ground level.



Broad Craig Landfall

