



# Happy New Year

## NorthConnect Project Update - January 2020

### Survey Work Complete

NorthConnect completed the geological survey work early last year and we have been busy working to conclude the remaining land agreements required to ensure project construction can begin on schedule. Further survey work relating to utilities such as gas and water mains and BT lines are currently ongoing in relation to the route from the Fourfields site down to the Peterhead Substation.

Conditions required by the onshore planning consents from Aberdeenshire Council are now being addressed prior to the start of construction. This includes developing a Construction Communications Plan which will make sure that the public is kept informed with regard to the project including access around the Fourfields site during the construction period.

### Site Archaeology

An archaeological site investigation started in mid-November which involved digging trenches across the site, to check for artefacts and evidence of previous uses. It seems that the only use Fourfields has had in the past several hundred years has been agricultural. The team has unearthed an 18th Century field drain and very little else. So, no Time-Team visits for us...

### Tender Update

Negotiations with the bidders for the main contracts on the converter station and cable supply are still ongoing. Discussions, particularly on the converter station, have taken a very innovative direction with all parties keen to try and minimise the size of the site by using the latest in technology.

NorthConnect issued a pre-qualification (PQ) for the Enabling Works package, which will seek a civil engineering contractor to prepare the site for the converter station, at the end of October, and saw many companies note interest and submit documentation for assessment. The invitation to tender will be issued shortly to the prequalified companies.

### Project Timeline

In line with the projected availability of cables and capacity of contractors, we now see the enabling works commencing in the late summer of 2020 rather than the spring.

### The NorthConnect Legacy Fund

Applications to the third round of funding through the NorthConnect Legacy Fund were considered by the panel at the end of November. 16 applications to the fund were received totalling over £22,000 for a wide range of projects across the area of benefit and applicants were advised of the outcome prior to Christmas. NorthConnect were delighted to award £20,000 to benefit a diverse range of social, educational and environmental projects, including Peterhead Academy bee-keeping initiative, Buchanhaven Harbour solar panel installation and The Friends of Aden Country Park's Scottish/Norwegian cultural event which will include food and music in September – we hope to see you all there!



We received the very sad news that our Community Fund Coordinator from Foundation Scotland, Iain Catto, passed away at the beginning of December. Iain was a key link between the communities around NorthConnect and the Legacy Fund Panel and worked tirelessly to ensure the fund was so well utilised. His knowledge and experience will be very sadly missed by us all at NorthConnect. Foundation Scotland will be recruiting a new Coordinator in the New Year – if you know anyone suitable, please do let them know to get in touch with Foundation Scotland.

To find out more about how the fund works please visit:  
[www.foundationScotland.org.uk/programmes/northconnect/](http://www.foundationScotland.org.uk/programmes/northconnect/)



### Contact Details

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For more information on the project please visit: [www.northconnect.co.uk](http://www.northconnect.co.uk) or call 07825 744712

*The NorthConnect Team  
would like to wish you  
All the Best for 2020*

