

## Legacy Fund

We will be continuing with our local community benefit fund, the Legacy Fund, so if you know of, or are involved with any organisations located within a 10 mile radius of the planned interconnector, please do let them know. Further information can be found on the Foundation Scotland website. This year's fund will be launched in early September - details below.

Last year's fund saw 20 successful applications awarded funding, including:

- Peterhead Academy bee-keeping after school club for the purchase of beehive maintenance equipment;
- Port Erroll Heritage Group for the installation of information boards at the Trygve Gran memorial and Slains Castle Car Park;
- and
- Buchanhaven Harbour towards the cost of installing solar panels on the boat shed.



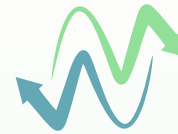
The Peterhead Academy bee-keeping club has around 20 members and at the end of last year was approved to deliver a national Progression Award in bee keeping. The club has now produced its first batch of honey and the school has been approved to deliver the SQA Level 5 Award in Bee Keeping, in partnership with Aberdeen and District Bee Keeping Association.



Elsewhere in Peterhead, the Aberdeenshire sailing club wetsuits have now been purchased and are starting to be put to good use – here they are in the shelter of the Peterhead Harbour.



<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/northconnect/>



# NORTHCONNECT

CONNECTING RENEWABLES



## NorthConnect Update - August 2020

We hope that you and your families have been coping with the Covid-19 crisis so far and that you're looking forward to getting back to some sort of normality in the near future. For us, although the restrictions have meant that the teams in both the UK and Scandinavia have been working from home and meetings have been held 'virtually', the impacts on the project have been minimal.

The political situation in Norway has been slightly unstable since the turn of the year with the current coalition Government having lost one of its members and with it their working majority.

NorthConnect has always had support from within the current Norwegian Government and this continues to be the case with a very positive report received from the Norwegian Water Resources and Energy Directorate (NVE) outlining the overall benefits of the project to Norway.

Due to a number of political and technical reasons however the Norwegian Energy Minister has decided that, notwithstanding these benefits, there needs to be a delay in making a decision on the Consents which the project requires to progress to construction and operation. As part of this there is an agreed position between the current Government and main Opposition parties on the aspects which need to be in place including an assessment of the impact of two other Interconnector projects (North Sea Link from the north east of England and the German NordLink) which are due to become operational in late 2021.

We now estimate that it may take two years for a decision to be made on the Norwegian Consents and as a consequence have had to postpone moving forward the main construction enabling works at Peterhead.

Whilst we have had to slow down our main procurement processes, we are still working on the consenting elements and so continue to liaise with Aberdeenshire Council and Marine Scotland. This is to ensure that as soon as the Norwegian consent is granted we can promptly move into the construction phase. There may be smaller pieces of work that can be undertaken around the site, and we will keep you posted as to what might happen, and when.

## Archaeological Survey

Rathmell Archaeology undertook intrusive investigations at the end of last year. This was one of the activities required to close out planning consent conditions. The investigation involved digging 146 trenches across the site to look for evidence of previous uses and artefacts. The drone photos show the extent of the areas trenched.



The only features identified were plough scars and field drains, with the latter composed either of rubble or of red ceramic tile. Eleven artefacts were found, nine of which were flint. Not surprising, given the close proximity to the Den of Boddam flint mine. Two pieces of ceramic were also found. The lack of significant in-situ archaeological material identified means that no additional specific archaeology surveys are likely to be required, however an archaeological watching brief will be in place during ground stripping activities as part of construction mitigation.



## The Story of Fourfields

One of the elements of the development of Fourfields is for NorthConnect to improve and enhance the experience of visitors around the site. Currently, a Core Path runs around three sides of the site and is popular with walkers. As part of the construction process, NorthConnect will be upgrading parts of this path network and creating a new path to replace the one currently bisecting the site. In addition, we plan to erect some interpretation panels and build a small open shelter to provide some respite from the wind. This work will be done in consultation with the Council and local community groups. Panels will tell some of the history of the area, including the early flint quarrying, local nature and the NorthConnect project itself. The shelter, similar in style to the one below, will be fully accessible and built using stone from the site.

