Happy New Year

The NorthConnect team wish you all the best for 2016

Last year NorthConnect received planning consent for the Interconnector Converter and High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) cable route connecting the Converter to the Peterhead Substation. Aberdeenshire Council unanimously voted to approve the planning application at their meeting on the 27th of August, 2015. NorthConnect would like to thank everyone who contributed to the design and planning process. We look forward to continuing to work with the community as the project develops, to optimise the mitigation of impacts.

Does this mean we are about to start building?

No, NorthConnect still have to gain Planning Permission and a Marine Licence for the HVDC cable coming from Norway before we can go out to tender for a Lead Contractor, who will then have to undertake detailed design and procure the equipment prior to construction, hence construction is still a number of years away.

So what happens next?

We are starting work to define the environmental surveys and studies that need to be carried out for the HVDC cable consenting process. This will inform the surveys studies that are carried out through 2016/17 to support the planning application and marine licensing process. As part of this a survey of the seabed for the full cable route from the shore near Longhaven, Peterhead to Simadalen in Norway will be carried out.

Staying Connected

The NorthConnect Team are committed to continuing to work with the local community and stakeholders. We will be carrying out formal stakeholder engagement on the HVDC cable later in 2016 and into 2017. In the meantime we plan to provide regular project updates, and explaining various aspects associated with the Interconnector Converter Station, through fliers and on our website: www.northconnect.no

If you have any questions please contact <u>Fiona.Henderson@northconnect.no</u> or call Fiona on 07773 353399



