

**NEWSLETTER**  
**SUMMER 2023**



Keeping YOU updated



**Welcome to our first project newsletter for the proposed Spiorad na Mara offshore wind farm, designed to keep local communities and stakeholders informed and up to date on the latest developments, and to invite feedback as we continue to progress the project.**

Spiorad na Mara is in the early stages of development. Engaging and listening to local communities and our stakeholders is an important part of how we work and how we want to develop the project.

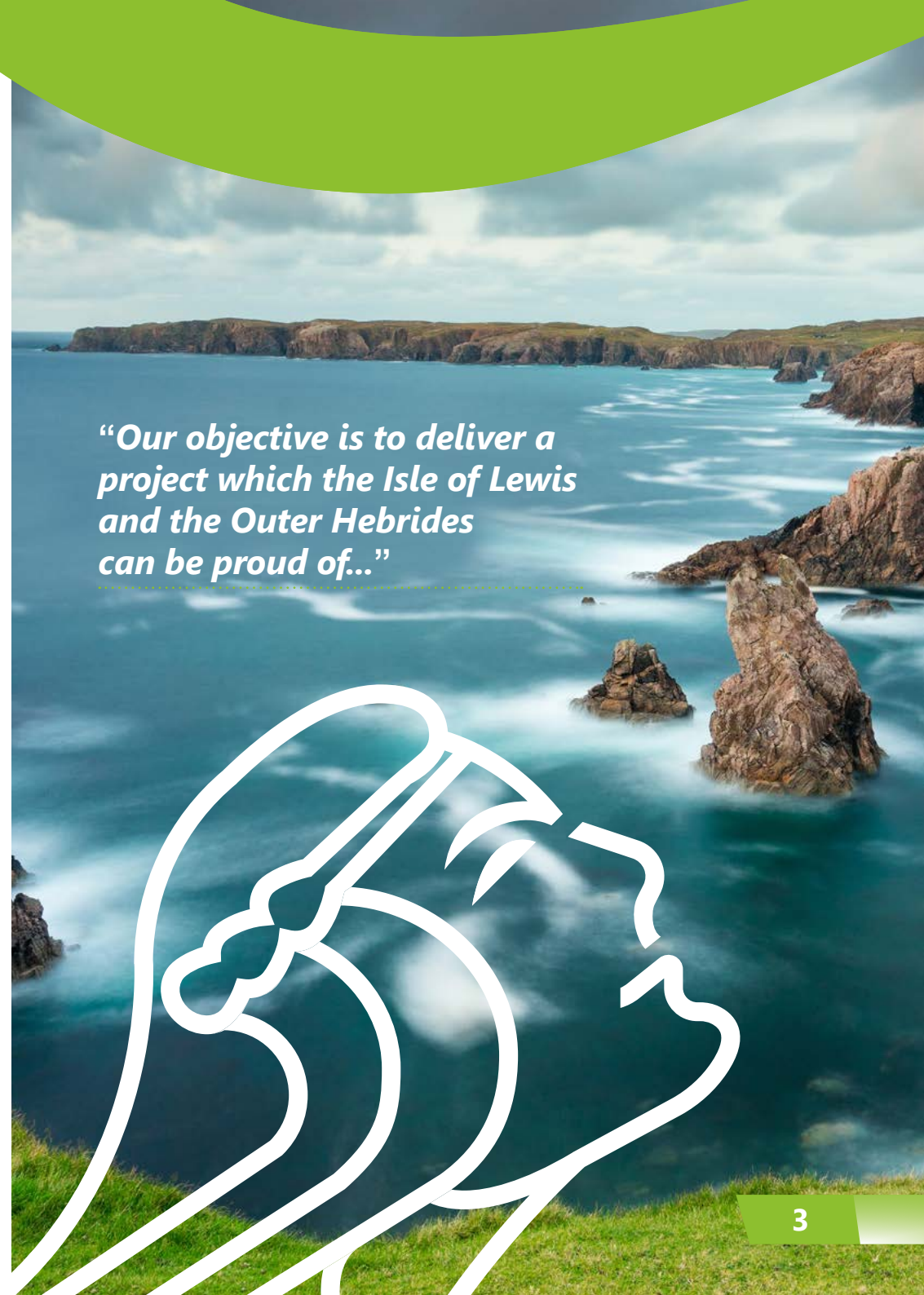
Our objective is to deliver a project which the Isle of Lewis and the Outer Hebrides can be proud of, and which can deliver benefits for the local, regional, and national economies, in addition to improving the security of our electricity supply and saving more than 1.2 million tonnes of harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every year.

I hope you find this newsletter useful. If you have any comments or questions about the project, please get in touch with us using the contact details at the end.

*Gach dùrachd/Kind regards*

*Tanya Davies*

**Tanya Davies**  
Project Director



**“Our objective is to deliver a project which the Isle of Lewis and the Outer Hebrides can be proud of..”**

Wind resource in and around the Outer Hebrides is among the best in the world and Spiorad na Mara will generate clean offshore wind energy, which is at the heart of achieving Scotland's net zero emissions target by 2045.

Northland was delighted to be successful in the outcome of the ScotWind leasing round in April 2022, winning the rights to develop two offshore wind projects—Spiorad na Mara off the north west coast of the Isle of Lewis, and Havbredey, located to the north of the Minch.

ScotWind was the Scottish Government's first round of offshore wind leasing in Scottish waters for a decade. The ScotWind leasing process enabled developers to apply for seabed rights, to plan and build windfarms within pre-defined areas of Scottish waters, resulting in 20 offshore wind projects with option agreements confirmed, which together total up to 27.6GW of clean energy.

These projects will deliver locally produced clean offshore wind energy that is central to Scotland's efforts to tackle the climate emergency, secure the UK's energy supply, and generate billions of pounds of investment in Scotland.

For further information on ScotWind, please search 'ScotWind' on [www.crownstatescotland.com](http://www.crownstatescotland.com)



## THE NUMBERS



**760,000 homes**  
Number of Scottish homes whose average annual electricity needs could be met with renewable electricity



**up to 66**  
Number of fixed bottom turbines



**10.6m/s**  
Mean wind speed at hub height



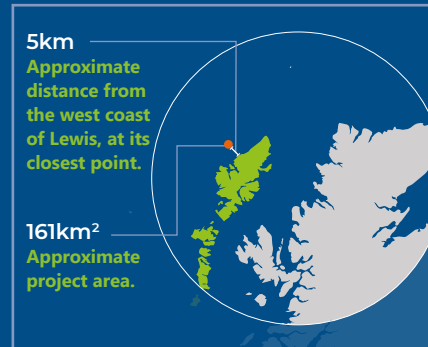
**1.2 million**  
The equivalent number of tonnes of harmful carbon emissions that could be saved every year.



**840MW**  
Potential generating capacity



**35-65m**  
Water depth

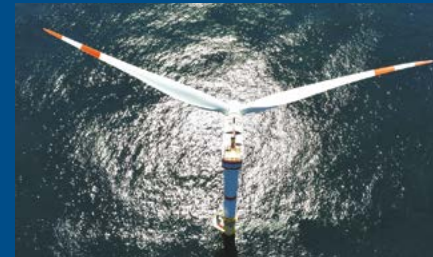


### INDICATIVE PROJECT TIMELINE

2024	Expected date for submission of planning application
2028	Potential start of construction
2030	The 1.8GW interconnector from Lewis to the mainland will support Spiorad na Mara
2031	Expected date when the wind farm could be operational
35 Years	Anticipated operating life of wind farm

## Environment

- Contribution to Scotland's 2045 net zero emissions target
- Renewable electricity for up to 760,000 Scottish homes
- Up to 1.2million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> savings
- Energy security for Scotland



## Social



- Multi million-pound community investment over the lifetime of the project
- Working in partnership with local communities
- Education and training opportunities
- Encouraging local employment, subcontracting and material supply



## Economic



- Significant new infrastructure investment
- New jobs during development, construction and operation
- Opportunities for local ports
- Opportunities for local, regional and national businesses



**Since being awarded Spiorad na Mara in April 2022, we have made great progress across many areas.**

The aim of the project team is to submit a planning application to Marine Scotland by the end of 2024, and subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Spiorad na Mara could begin construction in 2028.

Consultation and engagement with local communities and stakeholders is at the heart of our development process and we are committed to ongoing, open dialogue as the project progresses.

Prior to submitting our planning application, we will undertake at least two further phases of formal public consultation, inviting feedback and input, to continue to help shape the development and design of the project.



## New project names and identities unveiled

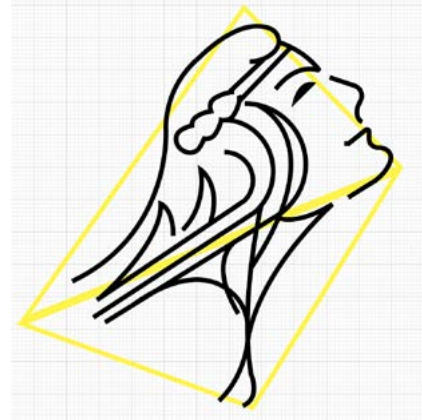
In March, we announced new names and brand identities for our two ScotWind Projects.

Working in partnership with Stornoway-based LOOM Graphics, we conducted local research, consultation, and engagement, to ensure the new names reflected the rich local folklore and history of the areas in which they are located – this was very important to us.

The new names and identities took their inspiration from Scottish and Nordic folklore, with tales often overlapping with the Western Isles' strong connection to the Norse culture. With the designs encapsulating the deep connection that local people have with the sea and the environment, they bring together the past, present, and future relationships between the islands, their people, and their stories.

"Working with Northland Power was

[www.spioradnamara.co.uk](http://www.spioradnamara.co.uk)



a huge opportunity for our small studio. We're very grateful that they sought to use a local business when looking for logo designs for the new ScotWind projects," said Pearse O'Halloran, Creative Director, LOOM Graphics. "It was an exciting challenge, and we spent a large part of the project researching folklore and island heritage to find relevant approaches for the design. These shine through in the final graphics that are built on the traditional values that folk spirits represented but are looking toward the future of the island. We are delighted to see the new designs in use and the positive change they symbolise for many years to come."

## Brand new websites launched

To coincide with the launch of the new project names, new websites have also been launched, providing more information about the projects, our community commitments and how to get in touch, to ask any questions and provide feedback. The websites provide easier access to information and will be regularly updated with news and developments - the 'go to' place for information on Northland and the projects.



For further information visit [www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk](http://www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk)

## New partnership announced with ESB

In May 2023, Northland entered into a partnership agreement with ESB for a 24.5% interest in the Spiorad na Mara and Havbredey projects. Northland retains a 75.5% stake in each project and continues to lead on their development, construction, and operation.

The partnership provides Northland with an opportunity to bring in an experienced long-term partner to help build on the development progress already made, with all commitments made by the projects prior to the agreement remaining in place.

***"With ESB, we have found a highly experienced and valued partner to help advance the development of the projects, and we look forward to working closely together to realise both projects over the months and years ahead."***

**Tanya Davies**  
Project Director, ScotWind Northland Power.

ESB is a leading Irish energy company, with vast experience in the offshore wind industry, including within Scotland. The partnership demonstrates the strong interest in ScotWind and in developing offshore wind in Scotland bringing together two very experienced companies with complementary skills, resources, and ambitions.

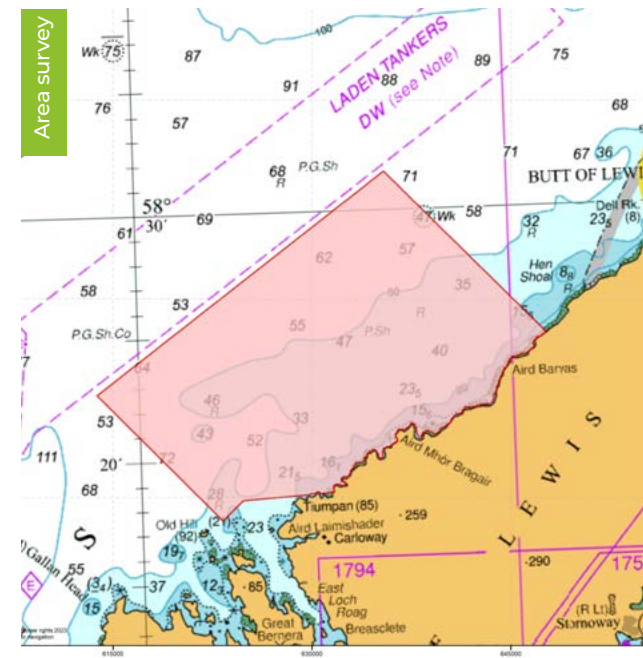


## Offshore survey programme under way to collect important data

During May 2023, an important step took place in the development of Spiorad na Mara with the start of offshore investigation surveys across the project site and along potential cable route corridors.

The purpose of the surveys is to gather data to inform the design of the project and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will be submitted as part of the project's planning application. With these initial surveys expected to be completed by the end of September 2023, a range of specialist vessels will be used to undertake geophysical, geotechnical, and environmental surveys:

- The geophysical surveys will map out the seabed surface and subsurface, identify potential archaeological features, and provide insight into the physical features of the seabed, including water depth, sediment type and distribution (sand, mud, gravel, rock).
- The geotechnical surveys will collect samples from the seabed, including boreholes and cone penetration testing. This data will be used to inform the mechanical and



geotechnical properties of the seabed that will determine the foundation type and design.

- The environmental survey will collect data on seabed habitats, marine ecology, and water quality.

The survey results, in addition to the feedback we receive from our local engagement and consultations, will feed into the process to define suitable cable routes, cable landfall options, and inform the layout of the project.

Details of the survey programme were shared in advance with the local fishing community and other marine users, including a Notice to Fisheries and a Notice to Mariners.

## Onshore surveys taking place to identify most suitable locations for electricity transmission

In order to send the electricity generated at Spiorad na Mara to Scottish homes and businesses, a grid connection is needed on Lewis. This connection requires the development of supporting onshore infrastructure, which could include up to two onshore substations, one at or near to landfall and the other close to the National Grid substation, near Stornoway.

We will also need to bring cables, through which the electricity will be transmitted, from the wind farm and connect to the National Grid substation. Depending on the most feasible route, this is likely to involve underground onshore cable routes leading from the landfall location to the substation.

We are currently looking at a number of options that might be available, and are undertaking a range of onshore surveys, which will help inform the EIA for the electricity transmission works associated with the windfarm and identifying the most suitable locations.

The surveys commenced in April 2023 and are expected to continue through to the summer of 2024.

The surveys include:

- Breeding and wintering bird surveys
- Ecology surveys (including protected species surveys, plants, and animals)
- Cultural heritage surveys
- Background noise surveys
- Hydrology surveys
- Peat surveys
- Engineering surveys

## New office opens in Stornoway and team grows

To support our commitment to working in partnership and engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development of Spiorad na Mara, we have recently opened a new office in Stornoway at the University of Highlands and Islands (UHI) Outer Hebrides, from where our local Community Liaison Officer, Eilidh Whiteford and Project Developer, Grant Anderson, are based.

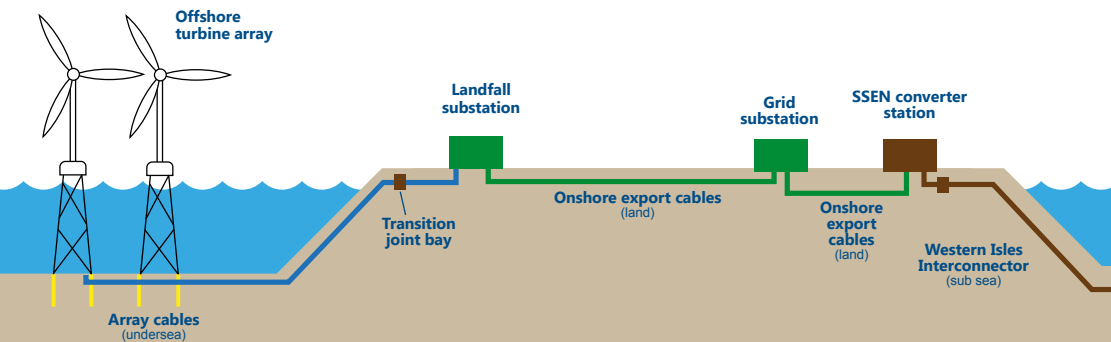
Both Grant and Eilidh have been kept very busy, holding numerous meetings with island organisations, community groups and a wide range of stakeholders, which are set to continue in the months and years ahead.

There is a vast amount of knowledge and experience within the Spiorad na Mara team, gained from working on projects all around the world. Within the past 12 months, the size of the team has continued to grow with around 40 people now currently working on the project. This is set to increase over the months and years ahead, including many additional local opportunities.



## Offshore bird and marine mammal surveys ongoing

Aerial bird and marine mammal surveys have been ongoing since March 2022. The surveys cover the Spiorad na Mara site plus a 10km buffer. The first year of data collection was completed in February 2023 with the first annual report expected in June 2023. The results from these surveys will feed into the EIA process and will support the project's planning application to the Scottish Government. The second year of surveys commenced in March 2023.



**Eilidh Whiteford**  
Community Liaison Officer



**Grant Anderson**  
Project Developer

Alongside the wider benefits offered by Spiorad na Mara in terms of reduced energy costs, greater energy security and reduced carbon emissions, communities also stand to benefit through a range of community initiatives. To date, we have been delighted to support a number of local organisations, including:

## Western Isles Association for Mental Health (WIAMH)

The Western Isles Association for Mental Health is a small locally based charity in the Western Isles. Their subject is health, with a focus on how to maintain (and where necessary, recover) a positive state of mental wellbeing, for individuals and the community as a whole.

WIAMH Delivers Catch 23 Support Services for people in the local community struggling with their mental health. Service provision includes a Mental Health Drop-in Service and a variety of activities designed to support and help people gain and maintain positive mental health and wellbeing. Catch 23 delivers a weekly programme of activities Monday - Friday from 12.30-3.30. Catch



Western Isles Association for Mental Health, Manager **Rebecca Mahony** (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) and team

23 aims to provide an informal relaxed place for people to meet without fear of being judged by the stigma of mental health and the issues that surround it. Catch 23 do not charge for any of the services provided. The Centre relies totally on external funding from a number of supporting agencies and Third Sector funders, with donations always very welcome.

Rebecca Mahony, Project Manager for Western Isles Association for Mental Health, said: "I was delighted that our organisation was nominated for donation in the run up to last year's World Mental Health Awareness Day in recognition of the work we do locally to support people who are struggling with their mental health via our Catch23 Support Services.

"As a grass-roots independent local mental health charity donations like this help us provide a vital support service to our members, adults with live experience of mental health issues."

[www.spioradnamara.co.uk](http://www.spioradnamara.co.uk)

## Hebridean Emigration Centenary

The Hebridean Emigration Centenary has been established to mark 100 years since major emigration from the Outer Hebrides, to primarily the east coast Canada took place. Events include a full exhibition being displayed around the islands, a Tattoo Metagama taking place in August and a variety of smaller literary and music events throughout the year. Events are being organised and supported by Western Isles Lottery and exhibition supported also by Stornoway Historical Society.

Tony Robson, Event Organiser said: "The Western Isles Community Society were delighted to receive support towards Tattoo Metagama and Leaving Home Exhibition from Northland Power; such early intervention enabled the project to proceed at an important moment in Our Islands history."



*"..such early intervention enabled the project to proceed at an important moment in Our Islands history."*

**Tony Robson** | Event Organiser

## Western Isles Library Services

Mobile libraries ensure that books are accessible to people of all ages, in different locations and have been used in the Outer Hebrides since the early 1950s. Through our support, an awning has been secured for the mobile library vans.

Iain Mackenzie from Western Isles Library Services said: "The awning is a great addition to the mobile library, which will be beneficial when we attend the local shows, providing shelter, extra room to enable a table and chairs to be used, and additional browsing space."



Left to Right: **Iain Mackenzie**, Mobile Librarian; **Eilidh Whiteford**, Scotwind Community Liaison Officer; **Tim Richardson**, Northland Power General Manager Local Communities and Indigenous Affairs.



Left to Right: **Iain GG Campbell**, WIIGA General Manager; **Gary Jordan**, WIIGA Archer; **Grant Anderson**, ScotWind Project Developer; **Tim Richardson**, Northland Power General Manager Community & Indigenous Affairs; **Louise Campbell**, WIIGA Archer; **Norman MacDonald**, WIIGA Chair and **Eilidh Whiteford**, ScotWind Community Liaison Officer

***“We are incredibly grateful to Northland Power for its contribution to our funds, which will help towards the substantial costs of WIIGA attending the Games. The Games is all about bringing small communities together and supporting them to provide, and improve, the sporting opportunities for people living on islands and overcoming the challenges that brings. The funding provided will go towards bringing together athletes from throughout the Western Isles to compete at the Games.”***

**Iain GG Campbell** | WIIGA General Team Manager

### **Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA)**

WIIGA is a non-profit organisation which aims to help island elite athletes develop and reach their full potential by competing at the NatWest International Island Games; and to foster and encourage friendship through sport between island communities and to provide opportunities for athletes to represent the Western Isles at international level.

## **THE SUPPLY CHAIN**

**Spiorad na Mara represents a significant energy infrastructure investment in Scotland and will deliver benefits to the local, regional, and national economy. During the development, construction and operational phases, there will be a number of opportunities for contractors, sub-contractors, suppliers, and service providers.**

We are committed to maximising the opportunities available for local suppliers and other Scottish businesses as the project progresses and are committed to supporting the Scottish and UK supply chain, working in close partnership with local businesses and suppliers.

We are eager to support the development of a new offshore wind supply chain in the west of Scotland, which will benefit local suppliers and the surrounding economy, and while many of these opportunities may be several years away, we are keen to understand what is available in the local market and engage with the local supply chain early.

#### **Business owner?**

If you are a business that would like to be considered for work on the project, please email [spioradnamara@northlandpower.com](mailto:spioradnamara@northlandpower.com), and we will provide your information for consideration to our main contractors, when appointed. In addition, we will also consider local businesses for supplies, services, and facilities we procure directly.



As members of the DeepWind offshore wind cluster, which draws together suppliers, innovators, and skills providers to support the development of offshore wind in the north of Scotland, we also encourage potential supply chain members to join up via the following link, to access various events and initiatives used to promote local supply chain opportunities. Membership of DeepWind is free:

[www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/deepwind-cluster](http://www.offshorewindscotland.org.uk/deepwind-cluster)

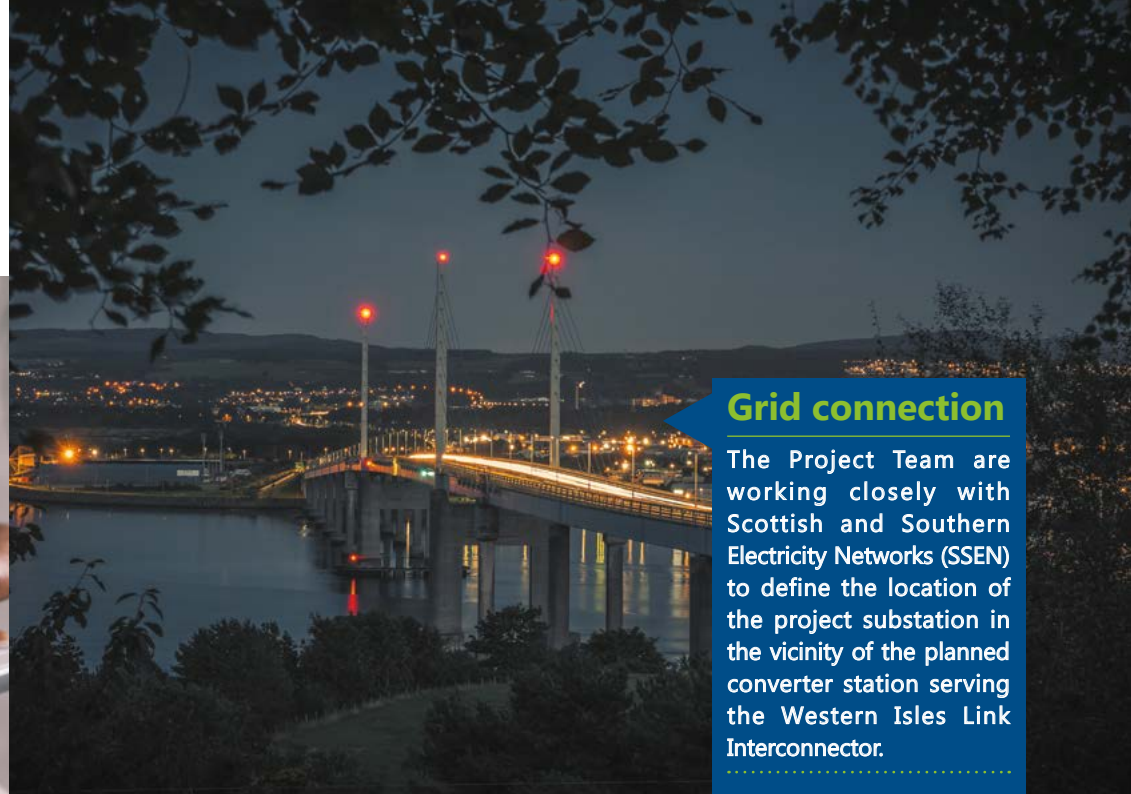
As the project progresses, we plan to hold ‘Meet the Buyer’ events, to provide more information on the opportunities available and how to get involved. These will be promoted on our website and through other channels, with plenty of advance notice given.

The next 18 months are going to be a busy time on the project, with the following, just some of the activities being planned:

## Project Scoping Report to be issued

Scoping is the first formal phase of the development process; it defines the maximum likely parameters of the project and the methodologies that will be used for assessing the potential impacts.

The Scoping Report will be published on our website and submitted to Marine Scotland, who will provide copies to all statutory consultees and other organisations for comment. The formal process that will be completed during 2023/24 ensures that the EIA captures all the likely significant effects and provides formal boundaries of what is and is not included in each assessment.



## Grid connection

The Project Team are working closely with Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to define the location of the project substation in the vicinity of the planned converter station serving the Western Isles Link Interconnector.

## Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) takes giant leap forward

WSP has been commissioned to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment for Spiorad na Mara. WSP is a leading engineering and environmental professional services company with their Scottish based team having considerable onshore and offshore experience, including on a variety of projects in the Hebrides.

WSP will be working with local based consultancy Atlantic 58 and others to undertake the EIA, which will be included along with the planning application.

[www.spioradnamara.co.uk](http://www.spioradnamara.co.uk)

## Consultation with local communities and stakeholders

Northland is fully committed to working in partnership and engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development, construction and operation of our projects, and have a long history of working closely with communities throughout the lifecycle of projects around the world.

We take pride in our approach to establishing, building, and cultivating strong, mutually beneficial relationships to garner trust and support. This is so important to Northland that we have developed and published a set of commitments to ensure that our

long-standing practices and values are transparent, and to demonstrate the consistency of our approach across our global footprint. These can be found on our website at:

[www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk](http://www.northlandpowerscotwind.co.uk)

In addition to ongoing engagement and communication, at least two phases of consultation will be held before the planning application is submitted, which is currently expected to be toward the end of 2024.

At each consultation, we will share the latest plans for the project and invite feedback and input, to continue to help shape the planning and design of the project. Full details will be made available once plans and dates have been agreed.



*"Northland is fully committed to working in partnership and engaging with local communities and stakeholders throughout the development, construction and operation of our projects, and have a long history of working closely with communities throughout the lifecycle of projects around the world."*

Tanya Davies  
Project Director, ScotWind Northland Power.

## THE PARTNERS

Spiorad na Mara is owned by Northland Power (75.5%) and ESB (24.5%), with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation. Both companies have extensive global experience in the offshore wind and renewable energy sector.

75.5%



### Northland Power

The primary focus of Northland is to build a sustainable and carbon-neutral world.

Headquartered in Toronto, Canada, with offices in eight countries, Northland Power is a global power producer dedicated to helping the clean energy transition by producing electricity from clean renewable resources.

Founded in 1987, Northland has a long history of developing, building, owning, and operating clean and green power infrastructure assets and is a global leader in offshore wind.

For further information visit  
[www.northlandpower.com](http://www.northlandpower.com)

24.5%



### ESB

ESB has been Ireland's foremost energy company since it was established in 1927, driven by an unwavering commitment to power society forward and deliver a net-zero future for customers and communities.

Launched in 2022, its Driven to Make a Difference: Net Zero by 2040 strategy sets out a clear roadmap for ESB to achieve net zero emissions by 2040. ESB are involved in six offshore wind projects in Scotland, which complements a 1,200MW pipeline of onshore wind farms.

For further information visit  
[www.esbenergy.co.uk](http://www.esbenergy.co.uk)



# Havbredey

NEW logo designed by LOOM Graphics, Stornoway

**During the outcome of the Scottish Government’s ScotWind leasing round in April 2022, Northland also won the rights to develop a second offshore wind project, located approximately 35 km offshore to the north-east of Lewis.**

and ESB (24.5%) with Northland leading on the development, construction, and operation.

The development of Spiorad na Mara will take priority in the immediate short term, utilising the established technology of fixed-bottom wind turbines.

In March 2023, the first year of offshore bird and marine mammal surveys got underway

*Utilising floating wind turbines, the project has a potential capacity of around 1,500 MW*

The proposed project is called Havbredey, a Norse word meaning ‘Isles on the edge of the sea’ and is believed to be where the word Hebrides was derived from.

Utilising floating wind turbines, the project has a potential capacity of around 1,500 MW, which could meet the average annual electricity needs for around 1.3 million Scottish homes with renewable electricity and save around 2.2 million tonnes of harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every year. Havbredey is owned by Northland Power (75.5%)

at Havbredey, which will continue until February 2025.

Subject to all necessary permits and consents being received, Havbredey could begin construction in 2032 and be operational by 2036.

For further information visit [www.havbredey.co.uk](http://www.havbredey.co.uk)



**As we continue to shape and design the project, your feedback is very important to us.**

We want to hear from you and look forward to building on the strong relationships already established with communities and stakeholder representatives on the Western Isles and North west of Scotland.

**You can contact us in the following ways:**

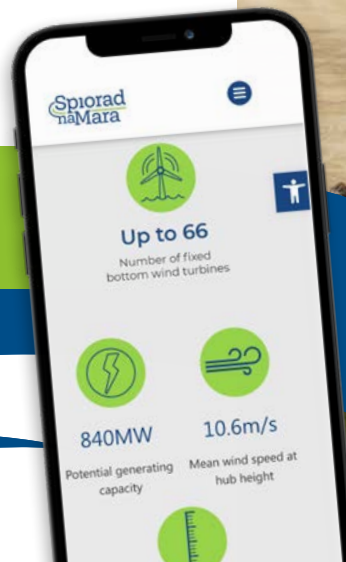
Email: [spioradnamara@northlandpower.com](mailto:spioradnamara@northlandpower.com)

Eilidh Whiteford  
Scotwind Community Liaison Officer  
[eilidh.whiteford@northlandpower.com](mailto:eilidh.whiteford@northlandpower.com)

Grant Anderson  
ScotWind Project Developer  
[grant.anderson@northlandpower.com](mailto:grant.anderson@northlandpower.com)

Media enquiries:  
[steve.thomas@northlandpower.com](mailto:steve.thomas@northlandpower.com)

To find out more information, please visit our website:  
[www.spioradnamara.co.uk](http://www.spioradnamara.co.uk)





Design: **LOOM** Graphics | Print: **Stornoway Media Centre**

