

Argyll Array Offshore Windfarm

October 2012 update



SCOTTISHPOWER
RENEWABLES

Welcome

This leaflet contains the information that was displayed at our consultation event on 30th October 2012. Contact details for the Project Team are provided on the back page if you have any questions or wish to discuss our proposals in more detail.

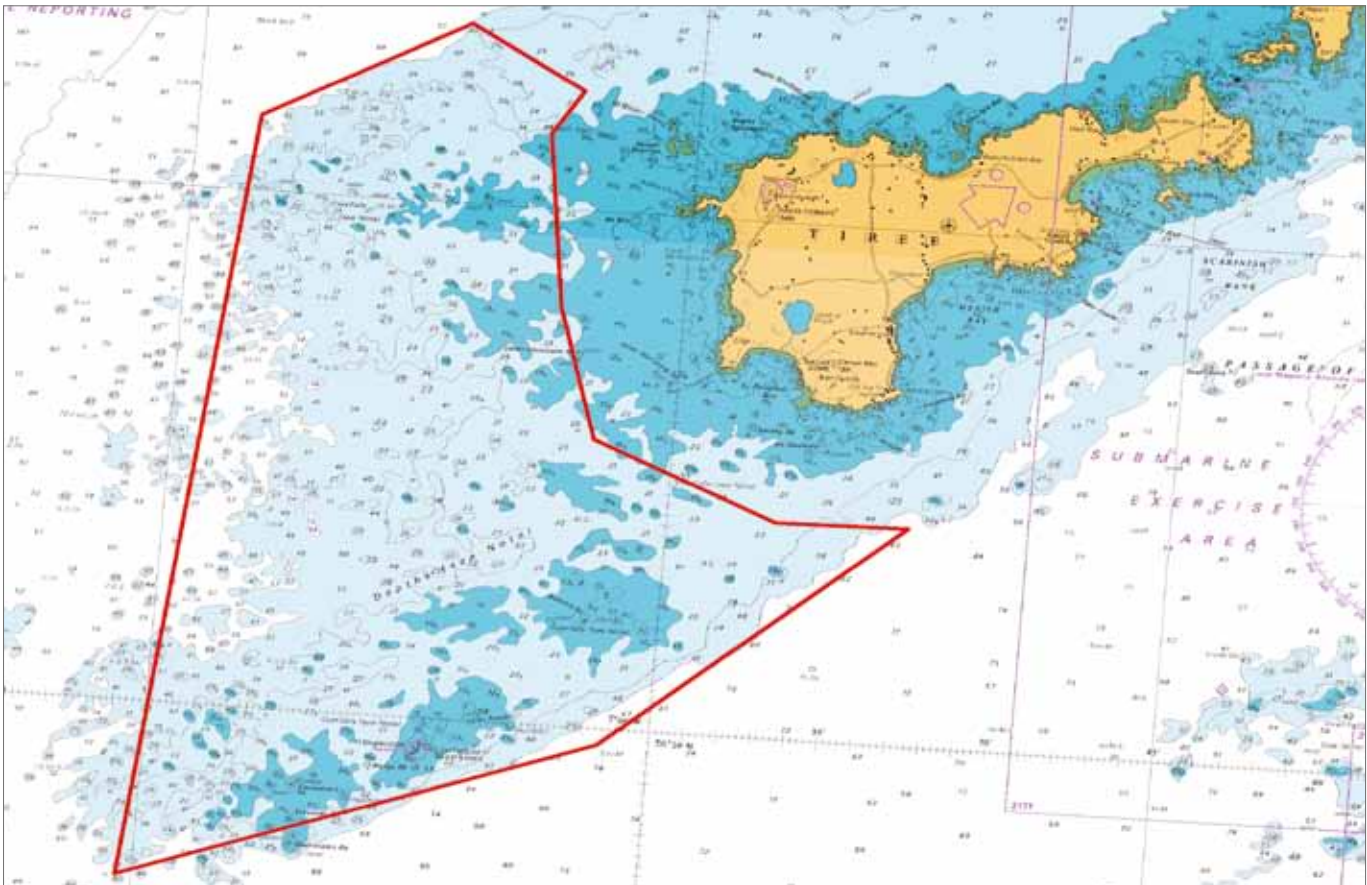
Background

In 2009, The Crown Estate awarded development rights for ten potential offshore windfarm sites around Scotland. Only five of these have been progressed so far.

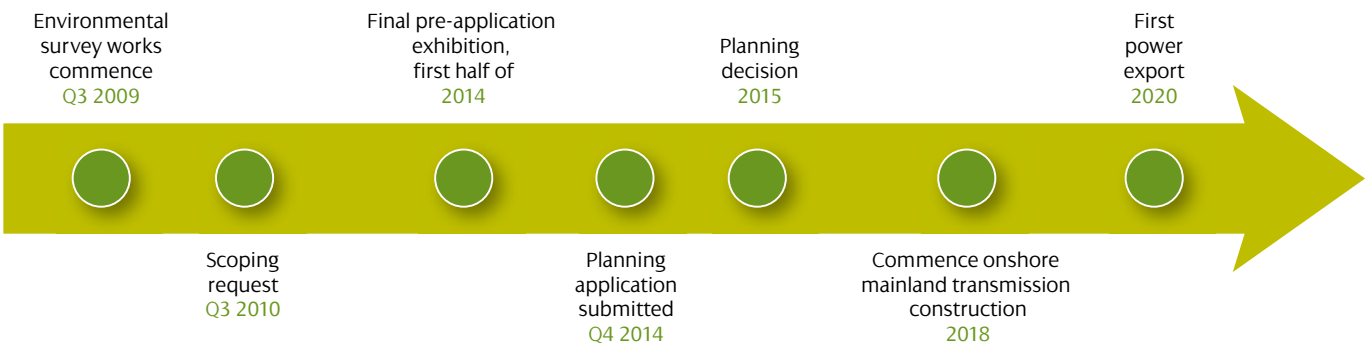
ScottishPower Renewables was exclusively awarded the Argyll Array site, spanning 361 km². It has an anticipated generating capacity of up to 1,800 MW and could annually provide power to the equivalent of over 1 million homes*.

*Calculated using an industry average capacity factor of 30% and an annual domestic usage of 4,700 kWh.

Argyll Array site of exclusivity



Project programme



Project programme

We have been undertaking various surveys on the site since 2010 and following the identification of some key species, specifically basking sharks and a species of bird called Great Northern Diver, we have decided to delay the project application in order to better understand the potential impact on these species, and to establish what may be done to ensure any adverse impacts are minimised.

We are aiming to submit a planning application for this project in the second half of 2014. Both offshore and onshore environmental studies will continue throughout this period, as well as discussions with statutory and non-statutory consultees, and local communities.

Environmental Impact Assessment

As part of the application for consent for the Argyll Array Offshore Windfarm project, a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must be undertaken.

EIA is a systematic process to identify, predict and evaluate the environmental effects of proposed actions and projects.

This process is required by law and ensures that environmental factors have been appropriately considered in the design of new infrastructure projects such as roads, shopping centres and power stations.

To date we have undertaken:

- Two years of monthly ornithological and marine mammal boat surveys
- A third summer of marine mammal boat surveys
- Two weeks of vessel traffic surveys
- Aviation studies
- An evaluation of the grid route
- An evaluation of the onshore substation on Tìre; and
- We have participated in the Tìre Onshore Scenario Mapping process.

The findings of these surveys, as well as further environmental studies and feedback received from members of the public and stakeholders, will inform the design of the windfarm.

In 2014 we will freeze the windfarm's design and present it in an 'Environmental Statement'. This document forms the basis of our planning application and is an evaluation of the proposed project in respect to the impacts it will have on the human, biological and physical environment.

Assessment of basking sharks and Great Northern Divers

For the Argyll Array project we have undertaken more than two years of ornithological marine mammal and basking shark surveys, via methods agreed with Scottish Natural Heritage.

We have been consulting with expert authorities to ensure that a better understanding of behaviours is developed and this has resulted in additional surveys being completed this year.

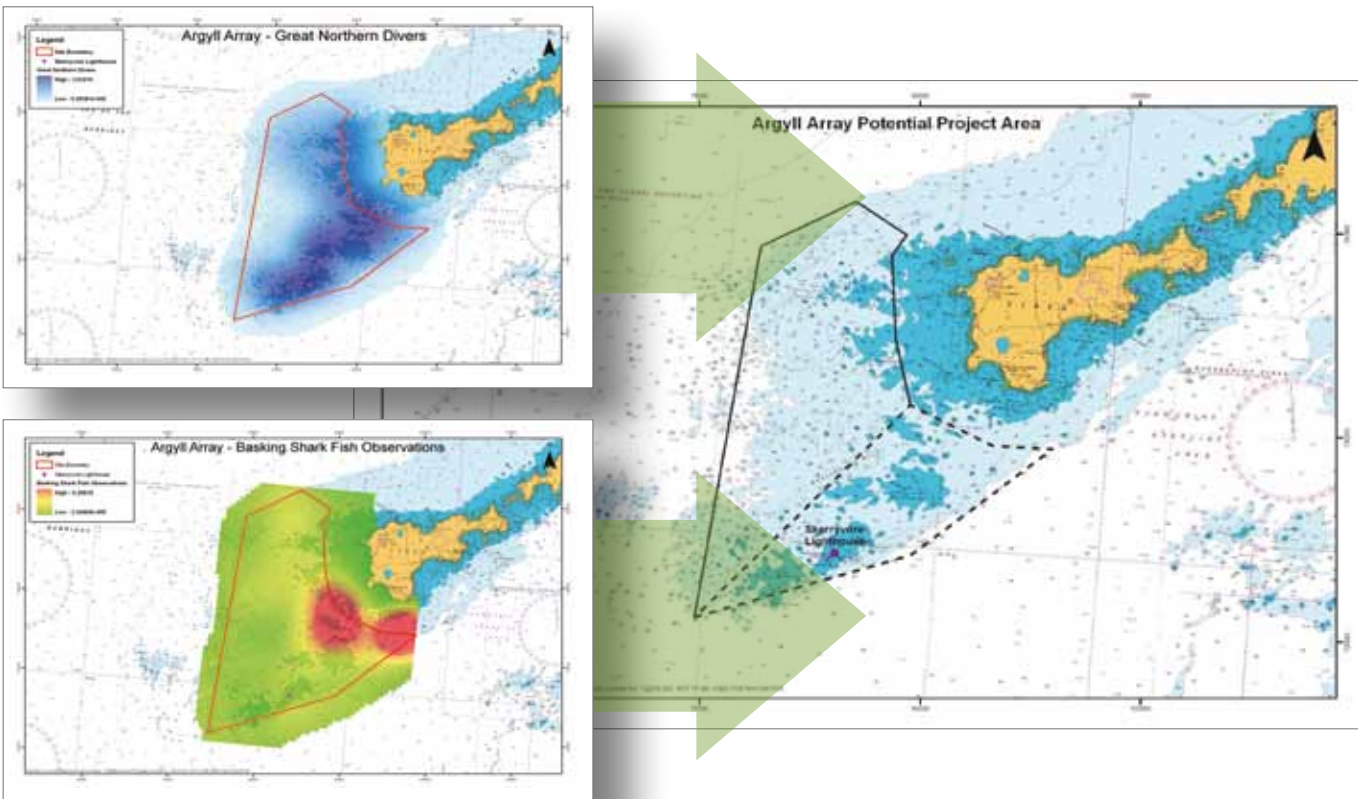
Survey results

The surveys have identified two key species that the project has the potential to impact; basking sharks and sea birds called Great Northern Divers that feed on the site in winter. Both species favour the shallow water around the Skerryvore Reef.

Positive design revisions

In order to minimise potential impacts on birds including the Great Northern Diver, we are considering a revision to the design of windfarm to exclude either part or all of the Skerryvore Reef area, reducing the overall size of the windfarm. Doing this would also avoid the area where basking sharks are present as well as avoiding Skerryvore Lighthouse.

Potential reduction of project area



Photomontages

To illustrate the positive design changes we are proposing, we have created updated photomontages, available to view on the project website (www.argyllarray.com).

As we are still in the early stages of development for the Argyll Array project, it is important to understand that the design will continue to evolve over time and as a result the photomontages will change.

We are considering a range of different turbines for this site and in the creation of these photomontages we are presenting a windfarm with the following:

- 215 turbines, rated at 6 MW, with a tip height of 146 m
- Gravity base foundations
- Two offshore converter stations (75 m by 100 m by 35 m) on foundations that sit 22 m above sea level (Lowest Astronomical Tide, LAT)

The exact layout will depend on the type of wind turbine selected, the seabed conditions and the final site boundary. An approximate boundary has been used for the photomontages.

Next year, when the site boundary is better defined, we will present updated turbine layouts and photomontages. We anticipate being able to present:

- Layouts for 6 MW and 10 MW wind turbines
- Alternative foundation designs
- Information on navigation lighting that may be installed on the windfarm.

Converter Station on Tiree

In February 2012 we announced that the converter station for the project should be located offshore. This is still the case.

An onshore converter station has benefits in respect to the creation of jobs and infrastructure, irrespective of the operations and maintenance strategy for the windfarm.

If there is strong local support, we would reconsider the possibility of an onshore location.

Sharing the benefit

Community Partnership Fund

Following feedback from public consultation, we understand that local benefit is an important issue and we have now confirmed our commitment to the principle of creating a Community Partnership Fund.

This mechanism is designed to provide direct investment to Tiree and the people who live on the island, so that local projects and initiatives can be supported.

In establishing this fund we are considering a number of factors:

- The investment will be unique to the Argyll Array project and if used effectively, will provide positive economic and social support to Tiree
- The fund will be additional to and separate from any sums we pay to individuals or businesses in Tiree under private contracts or agreements related to the development and operation of the windfarm
- The fund will also be separate to any improvements to Tiree infrastructure essential for the development of the project, such as an improved harbour
- The final agreed form of our investment will be outlined in a legally binding agreement.

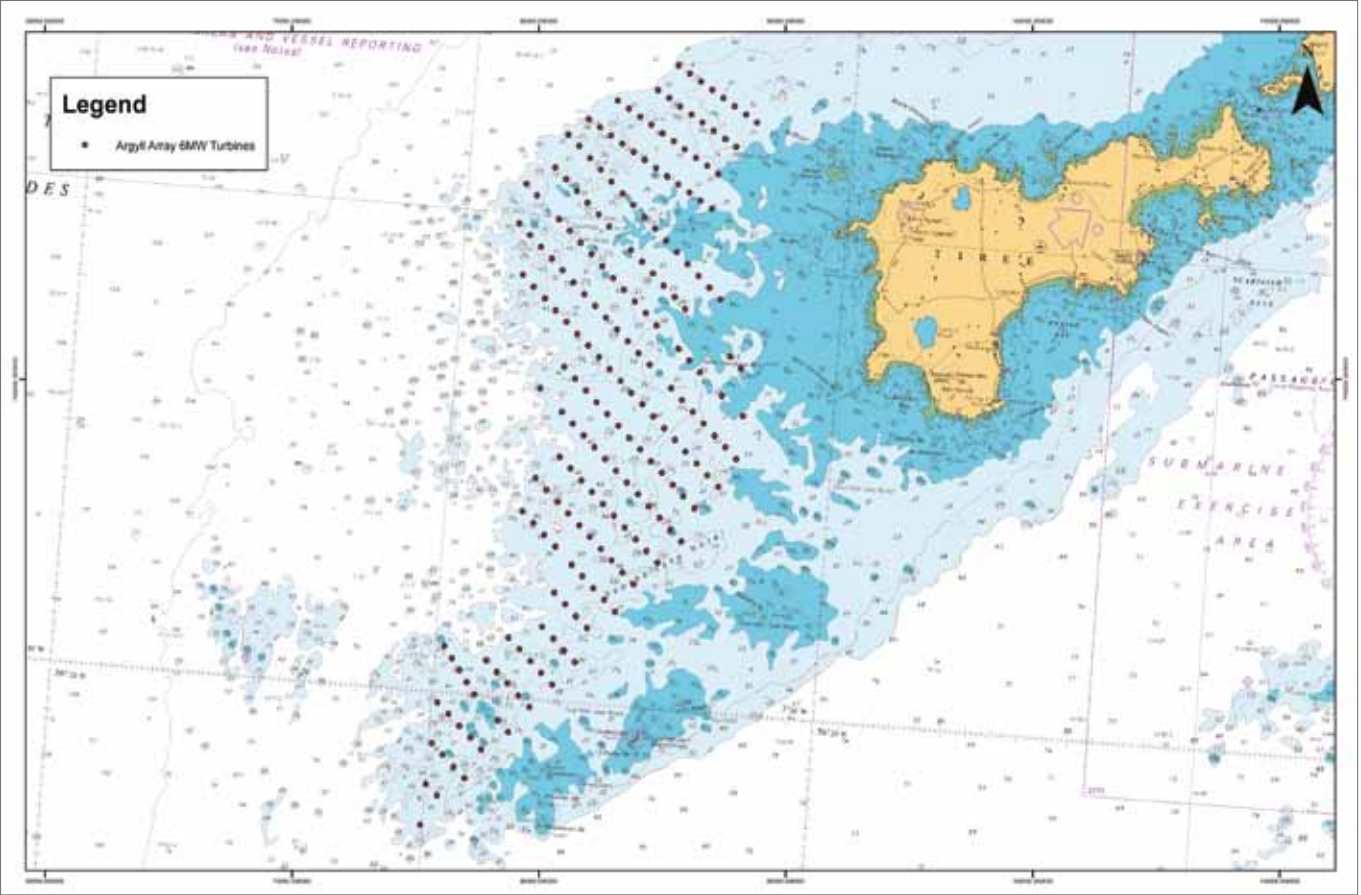
Creating the fund

Creating the fund

In early 2012 we began working with the Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT) to plan the mechanisms for creating the Community Partnership Fund. A number of fundamental points have been agreed so far Including:

- The negotiations regarding the Fund will be between the ScottishPower Renewables Project Team and the TCDT Board
- Minutes of all such meetings will be made publicly available and any final agreement will be subject to public consultation
- An established fund will be held and administered by TCDT
- The rules for such holding and administration will also be subject to public consultation
- SPR's support for the people of Tiree to benefit from education and training in renewables should begin immediately
- A costing exercise for the TCDT's growth plan for Tiree shall be undertaken.

Potential revised turbine layout



A community art project centred around our Black Law Windfarm was an initiative we were proud to support, directly benefiting local people.



Responding to local issues

Creating benefit

At ScottishPower Renewables we are committed to working with local communities in Argyll and Bute to maximise the social and economic benefits we believe this project can deliver, including identifying opportunities for local business and working with communities to minimise impacts.

Employment opportunities

As a major infrastructure development, the Argyll Array Offshore Windfarm project has the potential to create significant employment opportunities.

If consent is granted, several hundred jobs would be created during construction with approximately a further 200 direct jobs created to support operation and maintenance activities.

The cost of operating a project of this scale is more than £140 million each year; a significant economic opportunity for the people of Scotland.

Carbon Balance

We have undertaken a carbon balance assessment for this project in response to local requests. The findings of this will inform our environmental impact assessment, feeding into the design of the windfarm. For more information please contact the Project Team.

Tiree onshore scenario mapping

In 2011, Argyll and Bute Council, together with the Scottish Government, Marine Scotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Crown Estate, commissioned consultants Ironside Farrar to develop a clearer understanding of the potential Operational and Maintenance (O&M) requirements of this project, should it be consented.

O&M is the name for the activities needed to keep the windfarm productive once it is constructed. This includes routinely servicing all the turbines and generally keeping the windfarm working at full capacity.

The study seeks to clearly summarise the onshore implications arising from four possible O&M scenarios we provided. It also summarises the opportunities and concerns that the people of Tiree have identified as potentially arising from O&M activities.

The work has been progressed through a Steering Group chaired by Argyll and Bute Council. It has involved consultation with national agencies and also intensive local consultation on Tiree.

Whilst we sit on the steering group and have provided background information on possible O&M scenarios, we have not been involved in the funding of the study, in the community consultation or in the writing of the report.

We welcome the publication of the final report. We feel it provides useful, independent information as the project's consultation and planning processes move to their next stages.

Supporting skills, education and training within renewables

Tiree RESET Fund

The Tiree Renewable Energy, Skills, Education and Training (RESET) Fund is a unique initiative to encourage and better enable people with Tiree connections to gain the skills needed to benefit from employment in the renewable energy industry.

It has involved collaboration between SPR, Tiree Community Development Trust and Tiree High School and grew out of the discussions on the Community Partnership Fund (CPF) at the beginning of 2012 and is offered separately and in addition to this.

The 2012/13 round of the Fund has just closed and has attracted interest from a diverse range of applicants. Support has been sought for training and education in engineering, domestic renewable energy installation, maritime cadetships, business and marketing, IT and maths.

Careers events

In addition to offering RESET funding, in response to feedback from the Public Information Day in 2011 and in response to community demand, we hosted a well attended Offshore Wind Careers Evening in Tiree in autumn 2011.

This was supported by the Careers Service, by experienced ScottishPower Renewables operations and maintenance staff and by a representative from Windcat Workboats, a company that services offshore windfarms by sea.

Project Team members also supported TCDT's Careers Event in late May of this year, providing an engineering challenge for school pupils during the day and an overview of renewable energy career pathways for adults in the evening.



Children enjoying a day out at Whitelee Windfarm.

Argyll Array – next steps

Throughout 2013 and 2014, we will complete further environmental studies and will consult with you to gain feedback on our proposals. We will then finalise the windfarms design and we are aiming to submit a planning application in 2014.

Further activities we will undertake include:

- A geophysical survey, to establish sea bed conditions
- A Benthic (seabed ecology) survey
- Metocean modelling to identify sediment movement and wave patterns on the site
- Detailed work on the potential landscape and visual impact of the project
- Additional seasonal surveys of marine traffic on the site
- Installation of a meteorological mast on Tiree to provide accurate information on wind speed and direction.

In addition to this, we will also undertake onshore environmental surveys on the route of the export cable and at potential converter station locations near Dalmally.

This will include:

- Onshore Ecological and Protected Species surveys
- Hydrology and Geology studies
- Social, Traffic and Transport, and Landscape and Visual impact assessments
- Noise assessment and archaeological impact assessment.



View to sea from Tiree.

We will continue to provide updates through An Tirisdeach, the dedicated project website www.argyllarray.com and through public consultation events.

www.argyllarray.com
info@argyllarray.com