

Surveys

To make seafarers aware of any upcoming offshore surveys, the MachairWind Team will issue a Notice to Mariners, publish a notice in the Kingfisher Bulletin, and also post a notice on local Facebook pages. We currently have two main surveys planned within the windfarm option agreement area in the months ahead and these are:

Site Investigation Surveys

In the summer, we intend to start geophysical and environmental survey works on the windfarm development area. This will involve gathering data about the ground conditions on the seabed. The intention is that further survey work of this kind will be undertaken next summer, on both the windfarm development area and export cable corridor.

Metcean & LiDAR Surveys

From April, we will begin to gather data about the wind, wave, and tidal conditions around the windfarm development area. This data is gathered by deploying a small number of buoys within the windfarm development area and another location nearby.



Development Studies

Over the course of this year, the MachairWind Team will also be undertaking a range of studies to assist with the development of the project, including a port feasibility study and a socio-economic impact study.

The port feasibility study will be undertaken by a third-party specialist and will help us identify suitable port facilities for the construction, as well as operation and maintenance phases of the project. The socio-economic impact study is being carried out by Biggar Economics and is designed to assess potential impacts on employment and businesses, with the aim of maximising socio-economic benefits to local communities. Updates will be provided as these studies progress.

Project Timescales

We are currently at a very early stage in the MachairWind project. This involves carrying out site surveys and engaging with local people, communities, businesses, and stakeholders. Once we have gathered our survey data and carried out other technical and environmental assessments, we will then be able to carry out our environmental impact assessment. We hope to submit our planning application around the mid-2020s, which would enable us to start construction in the mid-to-late 2020s.



MachairWind Offshore Windfarm

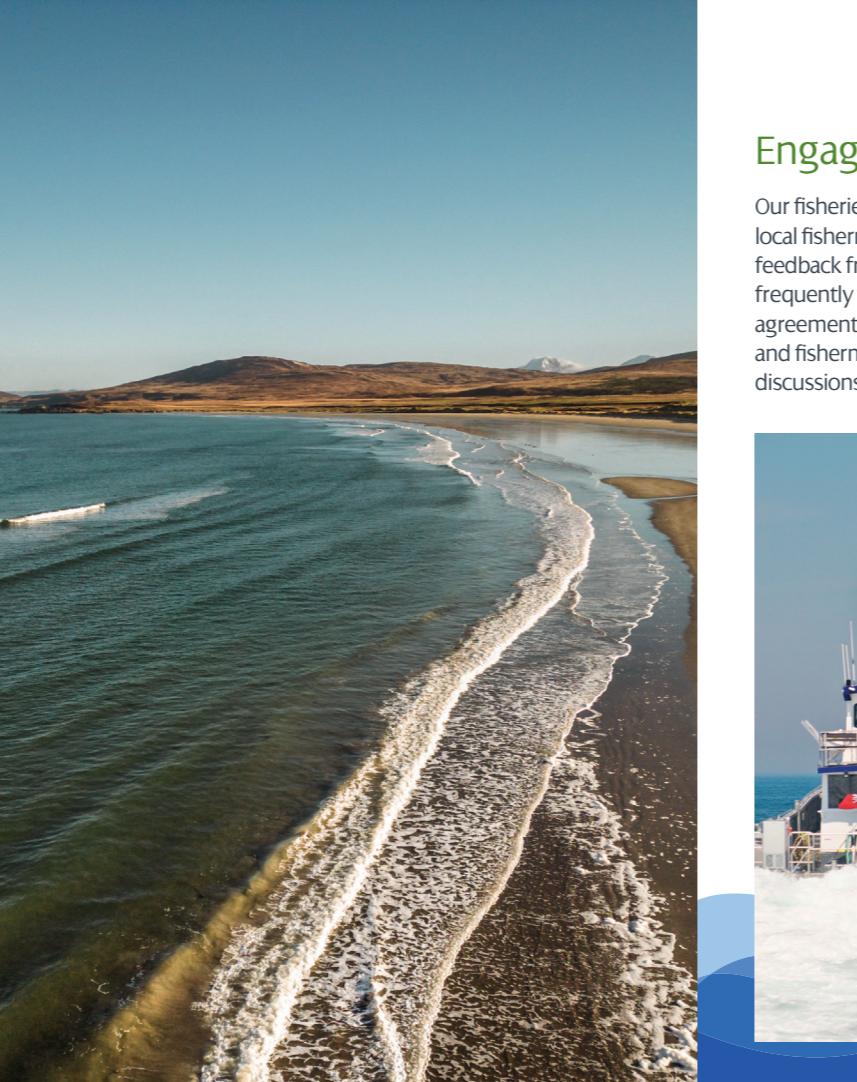


Welcome to the latest update from the MachairWind offshore windfarm project team. There's been lots going on since our last visit to the islands in October and lots more planned in the coming months. You can keep up to date with all the latest news on our website, www.machairwind.co.uk.

Local Community Engagement Manager Appointed.

Deborah Boyle, a local Development Trust director and former island community councillor – based on the Isle of Jura – has been appointed as the Local Community Engagement Manager for the MachairWind project.

Deborah is an advocate for clean, green energy and will be the first point of contact for people living on Islay, Colonsay and Jura. She will play a key role in keeping people informed about MachairWind, supporting the project through the planning and development processes, and working to maximise the benefit from the windfarm for local communities. You can contact Deborah by email at: dbryce@scottishpower.com.



Engagement with Local Fishermen

Our fisheries liaison officers – Brown and May – will be engaging with local fishermen on an ongoing basis as the project progresses. Thanks to feedback from local fishermen, we are now in the process of identifying frequently fished areas as well as vessels operating in the project option agreement area. We thoroughly appreciate the cooperation of sea users and fishermen within Argyll & Bute and look forward to our ongoing discussions.



Careers Fair

The MachairWind Team attended the Islay High School Career Fair in February. We had the chance to talk to some of the students about the different career paths that can lead to a job in offshore wind and also heard about their aspirations for the future. At the event, the students enjoyed using our VR headsets to see what the inside of a wind turbine looks like. It was great to get the chance to engage with the students and staff in person and look forward to attending future events like this.

Contact Us

There will be lots of community engagement and consultation throughout the development of the MachairWind project. Keep up to date on our website and if you have any queries, please contact our Community Engagement Manager, Deborah at: dbryce@scottishpower.com.

You can find out more – and register for supply chain information and opportunities – by scanning the QR code below.



You can also contact the MachairWind Project Team at:

machairwind@scottishpower.com

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