

Community NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023 - WALES

Greenlink
INTERCONNECTOR



Visit of Penrhyn Primary School to see installation of the duct pipes for the cables at Freshwater West

Welcome to the latest issue of the Greenlink community newsletter. As our project to connect the electricity grids of Great Britain and Ireland progresses, we want to keep you updated on the works taking place in your area.

Greenlink is one of Europe's most important energy projects and involves installing around 190km of subsea and underground electricity cables between Pembroke substation and the Great Island substation in County Wexford, Ireland. The development is already bringing jobs and economic benefits to the region and can help Wales meet its energy and climate objectives by facilitating the integration of more renewables, increasing security of supply and reducing wholesale electricity prices.



“At this time of uncertainty in global energy markets, Greenlink can support the journey to a more secure, sustainable and affordable energy supply for consumers.”

- James O'Reilly, CEO, Greenlink

Work on construction of the project is progressing well. Read inside for the latest news on Greenlink's activities in your area.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- CABLING AT FRESHWATER WEST
- PREHISTORIC FIND
- CONVERTER STATION TAKES SHAPE
- SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY
- OFFSHORE WORKS UPDATE
- ONSHORE CABLE WORKS START
- JOBS AND PROJECT BENEFITS
- PROJECT TIMELINE AT A GLANCE
- HOW TO CONTACT US

JOBS

 250

Around 250 jobs being supported in Wales over the lifetime of the project construction

 LOCAL

Contracts awarded to local and regional firms

 30

30 local people employed directly on the project as at April 2023 (around half the current workforce on site)

 20

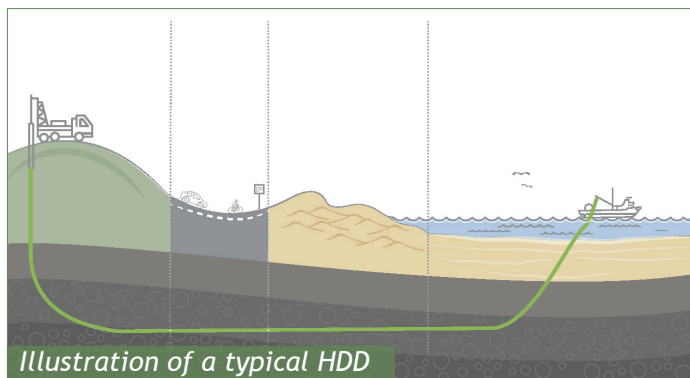
20 women currently working on the project across Ireland and Wales

Cabling work at Freshwater West



We are pleased to report that installation of the duct pipes for the cables that connect the land to the sea have been completed at Freshwater West, the Welsh landfall for the interconnector. The work was designed to take place outside the tourist season and to minimise environmental impact.

The engineering comprised drilling two 1.2km boreholes from shore to the seabed, using a low impact technique called Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to go beneath the sand dunes and beach (see diagram). Ducting was installed into these holes and sealed in preparation for installation of the electricity cables in autumn this year.



During work in January, a fracture in the rock resulted in some clay and water mix that we were using to lubricate the drill escaping to the surface. We responded by restricting access to small areas of the beach and were pleased to reassure members of the public that the material was biodegradable and non-hazardous. It quickly dispersed with the tides and presented no risk to marine life.

The construction compound (which was visible from the beach) has now been removed and a considerably smaller site will be set up in the autumn to support the cable installation.

Prehistoric find!



Archaeologists from Dyfed Archaeological Trust have been working to ensure that any unknown archaeological remains encountered are recorded ahead of construction. Work has focussed on the area surrounding Devil's Quoit, a burial chamber thought to be between 5000 and 6000 years old located at the Freshwater West landfall.

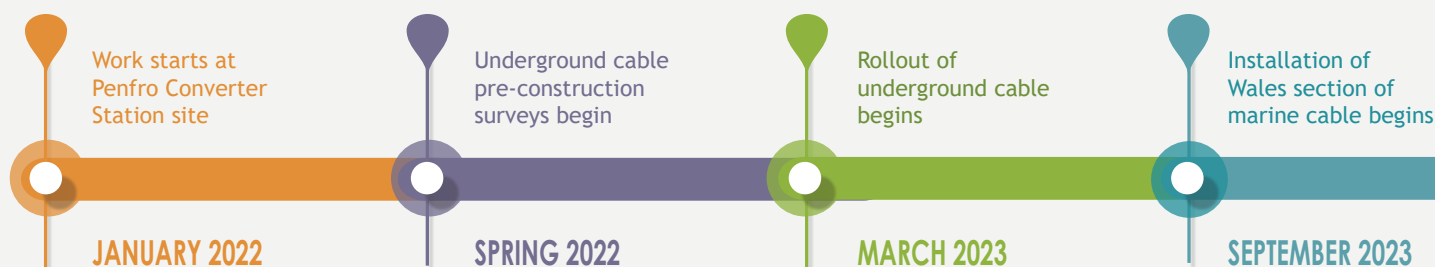
The excavations revealed further prehistoric remains around 100 metres to the south of the burial chamber. Although interpretation is still ongoing, these are thought to be:

- several stones including a standing stone surrounded by several cremations likely dating to the Neolithic (c.4400 - 2300 BC) period; and
- an outcrop/hollow used for shelter and possible stone extraction during a similar period.

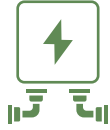
These are exciting and rare finds and will enhance our understanding of a known prehistoric ritual landscape. Once work is complete and scientific analysis undertaken, we hope to share more about our discoveries.



CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE



“Penfro Converter Station” takes shape



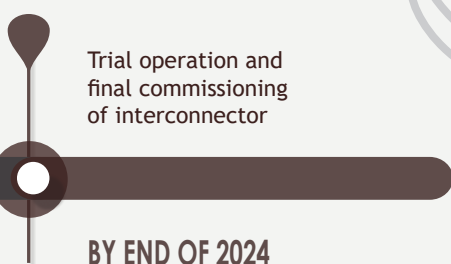
Enabling works for the Greenlink converter station near Pembroke substation began last year and involved extensive civil engineering to create a level base, access road and landscaping. Work continues to progress well, managed by Siemens Energy. Around 1000m³ of concrete - equivalent to more than 150 lorry loads - have been poured for the building's foundations, with deliveries timed to have least effect on the local road network. Over the coming weeks the outer cladding for the main building will be erected.

The Greenlink Converter station site has now been officially named “Penfro Converter Station”. With thanks to Manon Davies, the Welsh Language Commissioner, Diolch!

Offshore works update

Marine surveying for the subsea stretch of the interconnector has been taking place off the coast of Pembroke. Jan de Nul and Sumitomo Electric Industries, who are managing the marine cable installation, are finalising the results of the survey, which will allow cable laying to commence off Welsh waters in autumn 2023.

We will continue to keep local stakeholders informed as the offshore work progresses. A dedicated Fisheries Liaison Officer, Nigel Proctor, is available to answer any queries: 07702 730891 or n.proctor@precisionmarine.co.uk



Trial operation and final commissioning of interconnector

BY END OF 2024

communications, including the next edition of our project newsletter.

Supporting the community



Most of the economic benefit of Greenlink locally comes from maximising the use of local businesses and personnel during construction and we have worked closely with Business Wales and Welsh Government on this. Currently around half of all workers on site are from the local area. Last summer a student from Pembrokeshire College joined us as an intern and we are looking forward to their return this year.

We are also keen to support the wider local community. We have donated to Angle Football Club, Angle Community Council and Angle Lifeboat and are paying for new fencing and a new bench at the war memorial overlooking Freshwater West Beach.

In February this year we were delighted to host a visit by Penrhyn Primary School to support their work learning about renewable energy. Pupils came to site to see the drilling and installation of the land-to-sea ducts and we look forward to the class visiting the converter station site later this year.



380,000

Potential to power 380,000 homes*



Investment

€500m/£420m of private capital investment for Ireland and Wales



Energy

Supports the growth and integration of low carbon energy



Security

Enhances the security of supply for electricity consumers



Value for Money

Downward pressure on electricity bills



Jobs

Jobs and knock-on economic benefits during construction

*Figure for number of homes is based on typical annual Irish household use of 4,200 kWh (CER, Review of Typical Consumption Figures - Decision Paper 12, March 2017 (CER17042) and estimated total flows from UK to SEW of 1,600,000 MWh/yr.

Local Contacts

Our local representative is available to answer any questions you might have:



TOM BRINICOMBE
Community Liaison Officer

✉ tom.brinicombe@greenlink.ie

☎ +44 (0)7814 169380



For general queries in relation to cable-laying works, please contact our cable installation contractor GMC at:

✉ customerservice@gmcirl.com

For urgent issues, they also have a special 24-hour phone line:

☎ 0808 280 0145

You can also contact us in the following ways:

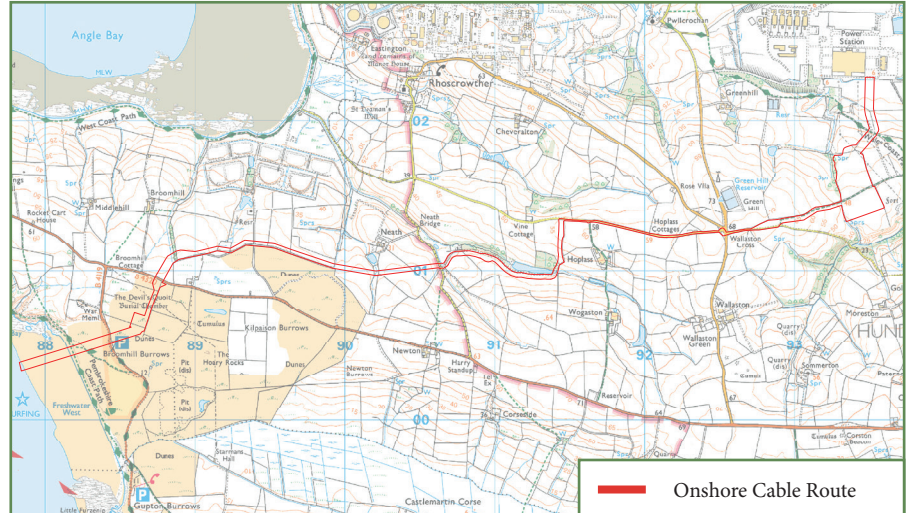
General enquiries email:
info@greenlink.ie

Via our website:
www.greenlink.ie (where you can also find a set of FAQs)

By post:
Greenlink Interconnector Ltd
Unit 3, 4075 Kingswood Road
Citywest Business Campus
Saggart, Co. Dublin
D24 YY36

Onshore cable works start

Civil engineering began at the end of March to install approx. 7km of underground cables on agricultural land and one local road between Freshwater West beach and the Penfro Converter Station.



Work will be done in phases, with up to two crews working at different locations along the route. The cables will be buried underground in a single trench at a depth of around one metre. To simplify the process, plastic cable ducts are installed first, with a protective cover and warning tape, and the underground cables are then pulled through.

The majority of the route is within agricultural land, where we use temporary plastic mat roads to protect the fields. The local road network, and specifically the route into Angle, is not therefore stressed with construction activities and to keep the road to Angle and Freshwater West open we are drilling 6 metres underneath the B4320 to install the ducts.



The cable route also travels over the busy Wallaston cross junction that supports the main access to Valero refinery. We have agreed with the refinery management team that works here will be carried out in phases over weekends when the traffic in and out of the refinery is at a minimum.

The majority of the onshore underground cable installation works will be complete by autumn this year, with some minor activities taking place until June 2024.