

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Moyle Return Conductor Cables Cable Laying, Burial & Protection Update – 26th October 2015

Mariners are advised that cable laying, burial and protection work on the Moyle Return Conductor cables is continuing between landfalls on Scotland (approx. 3.5km south of Ballantrae) and Ireland (5km east of Larne). The first cable was laid in **August 2015**, and offshore rock placement work is due to start for this cable on the **18th October**. The second cable is due to be laid and buried between the **13th October and 01st January 2015**.

This notice provides details of the two cable routes, the vessels that will be involved in cable laying, burial and protection operations, and the schedule for this work.

1. Project description

The Moyle Return Conductor Cables are two undersea cables running between Scotland and Northern Ireland. They are being installed parallel to the existing Moyle Interconnector North and south cables that provide a vital electricity link for Northern Ireland. The Moyle Return Conductor cables are part of a repair and maintenance operation that is intended to provide long-term security to the electricity supply of Northern Ireland.

2. Cable Route:

A map indicating the north and south cable routes is shown below.



The landfall coordinates are given in the table below.

Landfall Ireland	Landfall Scotland	Approximate Route length (km)
5°43.231244 W	5°2.573132 W	53
54°50.760877 N	55°3.558638 N	

To ensure the safety of the cables and other sea users, both cables will be buried along most of their length. Rock protection shall be used where cable burial is not possible (such as at the crossings over existing cables or where the seabed is too hard for burial).

3. Cable laying and burial vessel

The Moyle Return Conductor Cables will be surface laid and then buried using the purpose-built vessel *Nexans Skagerrak*. This vessel is 118.25m long, has a beam of 32m and can carry up to 7,000t of cable. More information about the vessel can be obtained from the Nexans website [here](#)¹.



During cable laying operations the vessel will be restricted in the ability to manoeuvre, and other vessels are asked to give a wide berth.

Nexans Skagerrak will display the prescribed lights and signals for underwater operations and will be monitoring VHF Channels 12 and 16.

The location of *Nexans Skagerrak* can be followed using AIS [here](#)².

Guard vessels

Guard vessels will be stationed as appropriate along the cable routed during installation and burial to ensure the safety of marine users. These vessels are being supplied by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation (SFF) and the National Federation of Fishermen's Organisations (NFFO).

¹ http://www.nexans.com/eservice/Corporate-en/navigate_191919/C_S_Nexans_Skagerrak_cable_laying_vessel.html

² <http://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:305539/mmsi:257253000/vessel:NEXANS%20SKAGERRAK>

4. Rock protection vessel

Rock protection work has been partly completed on the shallow water sections of the North cable. Remaining Rock protection work nearshore and in the deeper water is due to be carried out by the fallpipe vessel *Rockpipe*. The *Rockpipe* is 159m long and has a beam of 36m. More information about the *Rockpipe*, including its present location, can be found [here](#)³.



Whilst the *Rockpipe* is conducting the rock placement and supporting operations, it will be **Restricted in the Ability to Manoeuvre**. All vessels operating within this area are asked to keep clear of the vessel, 500 metres ahead, 1000 metres abeam and astern of the vessel to maintain a safe distance.

During operations the vessel will display the appropriate day shapes/signals and at times of reduced visibility the appropriate lights as required by the IRPCS. The vessel will also actively transmit an AIS signal. A continuous listening watch will be maintained on VHF Channel 16 and 12 DSC.

5. Project timetable

The timetable for installation of the two Moyle Returns cables is summarised in the table below.

Activity	North Cable	South Cable
Cable laying	Completed, August 2015	12 th -20 th October 2015
Cable burial	Completed, August – September 2015	20 th October – 1st December 2015
Nearshore rock protection	Completed, August – October 2015	May 2016
Rock protection (fall-pipe)	28th October – 3 rd November 2015	5th-25th December 2015

Note that all dates are dependent on favourable weather and sea conditions.

³ <http://www.marinetraffic.com/en/ais/details/ships/shipid:122291/mmsi:209449000/vessel:ROCKPIPER>

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