Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited (BOWL) is a joint venture partnership between SSE Renewables (40%), Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (35%) and SDIC Power (25%).

SSE is one of the UK’s leading energy companies, involved in the generation, distribution and supply of electricity and the extraction, storage, distribution and supply of gas. Its core purpose is to provide the energy people need in a reliable and sustainable way. It supplies energy to around 8.2 million customers throughout Great Britain and Ireland and is one of the UK’s leading generators of electricity from renewable sources. SSE became a Living Wage employer in September 2013 and was accredited with the Fair Tax Mark in October 2014. Every year it contributes around £9 billion to the UK economy.

Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) is a fund management company founded in 2012. Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners focuses on long term investments in energy and infrastructure assets, primarily in Northern and Western Europe and North America.

SDIC Power Holdings Co., Ltd is a power generation company listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange. SDIC Power is primarily engaged in the investment, development, construction, operation and management of power projects. The company owns a total installed capacity of 27GW, and more than 65% of the portfolio is renewable energy capacities, including hydro power stations and wind farms.

Beatrice will be located around 13.5km (at its closest point) from the Caithness Coast in the Outer Moray Firth, with its centre located approximately 25km (13.4Nm) south south-east of Wick. It will have 84 7MW Siemens wind turbines which together will be capable of generating up to 588 MW of wind powered renewable energy.

In February 2009 BOWL was awarded exclusivity by The Crown Estate to develop Beatrice in Scottish Territorial Waters. The project was consented by Marine Scotland in March 2014 and granted an Investment Contract by the UK government in May 2014. The project achieved financial close in May 2016, signalling the start of the construction phase.

Work is underway in Moray on the Beatrice substation near Keith and we hope to begin work on the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) facility in Wick by January 2017, subject to planning permission.

Construction at the offshore wind farm site will begin in 2017 and the project is expected to be fully operational in 2019.
Since achieving Financial Close at the end of May, our focus has turned to the construction phase of the project which has seen work beginning at Blackhillock (in Moray) on the substation, a number of significant contract awards being made and manufacturing getting underway in order to deliver the fully operational Beatrice wind farm in 2019.

Recent significant contract awards for Beatrice have included:

- Port of Nigg, Easter Ross - construction and marshalling port
- BiFab, Fife - £100m contract to build 26 jacket foundations
- Babcock, Rosyth - contract to build the two Offshore Transformer Module topsides
- RJ McLeod, Glasgow - construction of Blackhillock substation
- Sgurr Energy, Glasgow - construction and operational monitoring contract

Subject to planning permission, work at the Wick O&M base is expected to begin by January 2017 with construction beginning at the offshore site later in the year.

Onshore works at the Blackhillock substation in Moray continue and work on the cable run from near Portgordon (landfall site) to Blackhillock will begin in late 2016.
The proposed development refers to two partial blocks of Lower Pulteneytown buildings fronting east onto Harbour Quay and bounded on their north and south elevations by Saltoun Street, Telford Street and Burn Street. They form part of Thomas Telford’s 1807 plan for the Pulteney Village and Harbour area. The client for the original development was the British Fisheries Society and land plots were advertised for sale from 1808, with the stipulation that they could only be used by fishermen, fish curers or those employed by them.

With its proximity to the Beatrice offshore wind turbines and with the availability of suitable quayside facilities, Wick Harbour has been chosen as the location for the projects Operations and Maintenance (O&M) base. The base will be required for the 25 year lifespan of the Beatrice wind farm to facilitate the commissioning, operation and maintenance of the turbines in a safe and efficient manner.

A number of design options for the base have been assessed including a new build on the Telford Jetty which was presented at a public engagement event in March 2016. However, on 24 August 2016, the BOWL Board approved the option to renovate and utilise two dis-used industrial buildings, located in the historic Conservation area of Lower Pulteneytown as the basis for the O&M base.

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Three fish curing yards were quickly established along with homes and smaller curing/smoking sheds, interspersed between the larger operations. With the decline of the fishing industry, the occupation/use of the buildings dwindled with non-fishing use predominant to the present day.

The building groups predominantly date from the original construction, but both have been altered and re-planned over time.
The settlement as a whole has a particular and strong visual identity and, as an example of a very early planned industrial/residential settlement, has national and international conservation and historic importance.

Appropriate renovation and utilisation

For the purpose of the application, the northernmost building group, bounded by Burn Street and Telford Street is designated as Building ‘A’.

The southernmost building, bounded by Telford Street and Saltoun Street (also known as the Grey Coast Buildings) is designated as Building ‘B’.

The south east portion of Building ‘A’ is in separate ownership as a takeaway, so is not included in our proposals.
Appropriate renovation and utilisation

Our proposals for the re-use of these historic buildings is considered highly appropriate in as much as Lower Pulteneytown was conceived, planned and built as an industrial marine economy related development. After many years of relative decline as the original use was superceded, our development proposals will regenerate and bring back a significant proportion of Wick’s Harbour Quay into appropriate long term use.

It is proposed to consider the following key principles in the development of the scheme and to carefully develop these same principles in conjunction with the Local Authority Conservation/Planning departments to ensure that the Listed Building Conservation requirements for the area are fully met.

A key element of Wick’s selection as the preferred location for the O&M base included the facilities on offer. These include an area in the Inner Harbour for the safe berthing of the project’s crew transfer vessels and the two adjacent buildings in Lower Pulteneytown.

Images show activities at the Greater Gabbard O&M base in Lowestoft.
Utilising the buildings

The nature and scope of the facility can be accommodated over 2-3 floors within the buildings, within the existing footprints and without the need for significant elevations changes. Such changes are limited to formation of a new vehicle point on Telford Street, reducing and replacing the extent of render from that existing and specific signage, public access and glazing work.

Internal accommodation is formed within the footprint of the existing buildings and utilises/reinstates existing and previously infilled window and door openings, but will be completely re-planned and reconstructed internally.

While building ‘A’ and ‘B’ have different basic functions, they are both integral to providing all necessary facilities to enable the safe and efficient operation of Beatrice.

During all project phases, a number of key duties will be managed from the buildings including but not limited to:

- Storage of consumables, spares, tools and other equipment
- Provision of safety training and site inductions for offshore personnel
- Coordination of permits and licenses required to conduct activities offshore
- Provision of meeting rooms and welfare facilities
- Operation of communication facilities
- Marine planning and coordination
- Provision of network management and nominated Control Point for the National Grid

There will be ‘goods in’ deliveries of supplies and equipment arriving to and despatched from, a goods entrance at the frontage of Building ‘B’ to Harbour Quay (previously used for road haulage purposes).

This vehicle access will not be used for any other purpose. Goods in will comprise limited deliveries which are anticipated as up to four daily loads – by transit van sized vehicles.

Goods out will be transferred by forklift or similar across Harbour Quay to proposed berths in the Inner Harbour adjacent to Harbour Quay.

Two way vehicle movement occurs on all bounding streets and Harbour Quay is a public bus route. Vehicle access to Buildings ‘A’ and ‘B’ will be from Telford Street. A transport assessment providing information on anticipated personnel generated traffic, shift patterns and parking proposals together with proposed plant/delivery and despatch of materials to the harbour facilities is available.
Socio-economic benefits

The Beatrice offshore wind farm, at around £2.6bn, is one of the largest private investments ever made in Scottish infrastructure. A project of this scale is important to local, regional, Scottish and UK economies and we are committed to maximising benefits wherever possible. Opportunities include job creation, skills training, investment in Scottish ports and harbours, supply chain opportunities and community benefit funding.

Beatrice has a tier 1 supply chain comprising Seaway Heavy Lifting, Subsea 7, Nexans and Siemens and expect to deliver c. £680m into the UK and Scottish economy via employment and supply chain opportunities during the construction phase and c. £400 - £525m during the 25 year operational phase.

Job creation

The O&M base in Wick is expected to support a peak of around 65 jobs during the construction and around 90 long term jobs are anticipated during the operational phase.

Opportunities at Wick are expected to include onshore operational staff, offshore turbine technicians and skippers for the Crew Transfer Vessels which will transport the offshore teams to and from Beatrice.

Supply chain

On 23 May 2016, the green light was given for construction to proceed. Since then many significant contracts have been awarded and construction and fabrication has begun in readiness for delivering an operational wind farm in 2019.

As construction ramps up, many local businesses including restaurants, accommodation providers, shops and service providers will see increased business.

Community benefits

As well as employment and supply chain opportunities, the Beatrice project brings with it a £6m Community Benefit fund, from which £4m will be available for distribution in the Highland region. We will announce further details of the fund towards the end of this year, including the areas eligible to benefit and how eligible groups and organisations can apply for funding to support their aspirations.

Be the Difference

As well as the opportunity to apply for funding, SSE operates a volunteering scheme called ‘Be the Difference’. This affords every member of staff the chance to take a day away from their day job to support local good causes that are close to their hearts.
Keeping in touch

We submitted our planning application to The Highland Council planning department on Monday 12 September 2016 and we hope to achieve planning consent later this year, enabling works to commence by January 2017.

We would like to keep you informed as we progress and there are a number of ways in which we can keep you up to date:

Email updates: If you would like to receive email updates, please complete a comments form before you leave today so that we can add you to our mailing list. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Updates are generally sent to mark key O&M or project milestones or when there are specific construction activities that we would like to tell you about.

Project website: For more generalised information, you can visit the Beatrice website which can be found at sse.com/beatrice. As construction progresses, we will update the website with the latest news as well as links to some interesting short videos explaining some of the processes required to bring a project like Beatrice to life.

@Beatricewind Twitter feed: Our Twitter feed has interesting bite sized pieces of news, views and project information and more. You do not have to have a Twitter account to see what we are posting. Simply go to www.twitter.com/beatricewind to read our latest posts. Alternatively, visit the project website and you will see the latest Tweets to the right of the page.

Contacting us: Of course, you may want to contact the project team to talk about some concerns or simply to get more information about an aspect of the project. In the first instance, please contact our Liaison Manager:

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