

Spittal to Peterhead Subsea Cable Link

Enabling works begin in Aberdeenshire

The Spittal to Peterhead Subsea Cable Link project team are preparing to start early works in the Rattray Head area this month.

Project overview

The Spittal to Peterhead Subsea Cable Link is a proposed high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission link between Banniskirk Hub in Caithness and Netherton Hub near Longside, Peterhead. The cable will span approximately 210km, predominantly under the Moray Firth and North Sea. In Aberdeenshire, the subsea cable will come onshore at Rattray Head near St Fergus, and an underground cable will connect the subsea cable from the coastal landfall site to Netherton Hub.

Bellmouth construction on A90 and U37B at Rattray Estate

Our contractors NKT will construct a bellmouth junction for an access road off the A90 near where our cable will cross underneath the road. This will require approximately 10 working days of traffic management on a short section of the A90. Towards the end of October, we will also construct another bellmouth and crossing point on a sideroad within Rattray Estate (road U37B), under a road closure. A diversion will be in place for approximately four weeks.

Access track formation

Once the bellmouths are in place, the contractors will begin forming a temporary access track and the required horizontal directional drilling (HDD) platforms along the proposed cable alignment between the A90 and the Rattray Head coast. This work is expected to be completed around March 2026, enabling the main construction works to commence from April 2025. The access track will be removed once the project is complete.

These works are necessary to provide our construction teams with access to the cable construction corridor and the proposed site at Rattray Head where our marine cable will come ashore.

Ground investigation works

Our contractors will also be conducting some ground investigation works this month at various locations in the Rattray Estate. These works, which will help us obtain a detailed picture of the ground conditions and geology, will involve the creation of bore holes and trial pits by our contractor using rigs and excavators. We don't anticipate excessive noise in relation to these works, but residents may notice construction traffic.

Hedge and tree clearance and fencing

Our contractors will commence hedge clearance at several locations along the cable alignment between Rattray Head and Netherton Hub. We will also undertake some tree removal in a plantation near the solar farm to the west of the A90. Post and wire fencing will also be erected around the bellmouths and access track.

How these enabling works may impact you

During these works, residents and road users may notice increased traffic and machinery being transported to and from the sites. We don't anticipate excessive noise in relation to these works, but some construction activity will be noticeable.

Works will take place between 7am-7pm Monday to Friday, with some weekend working if required.

We will have traffic management in place on the A90 for approximately 10 days. We will also have a diversion in place on the sideroad U37B for approximately four weeks.

Thank you

We will carry out all works with least disruption possible, and we thank you for your patience as we deliver this critical national infrastructure project.

For more information

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact our Community Liaison Manager:

Email gillian.doig@sse.com

Website www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/spittal--peterhead-subsea-cable-link/

Included overleaf is a map showing underground cable alignment in the Rattray Head area. Larger format maps will be available on our project webpage



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