

## Talking about Offshore Wind Energy



In the first issue of *Windward*, we talked about our commitment to consultation. In this issue, we look at what has been achieved in less than three months and consider our plans for a programme of local consultation around the shores of the Moray Firth.

In April, Talisman Energy (UK) produced a full Scoping Report for the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project. We invited people to download this report from our website – [www.beatricewind.co.uk](http://www.beatricewind.co.uk) – and to come back to us with any issues.

To encourage as much feedback as possible, we have also introduced the project and the Scoping Report at events in Dingwall, Inverness and Edinburgh. These were very useful meetings, and we would like to thank everyone for taking the time to discuss our project.

However, as our plans gather pace, we recognise it is increasingly important to hear the views of people in local communities. As a result, we have organised a programme of local consultation events which will provide local and informal opportunities for anyone and everyone to come and talk directly with us.

You will find full details of the venues and dates on page 2 of this issue. We hope that these events will help us to build on a very successful start to our 2005 consultation process.

## A message from Paul Blakeley

Vice President, Talisman Energy (UK) Limited

“We are entering a very exciting phase in the development of the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project. In the coming months, we will be awarding more contracts for delivery of the project and then we will begin to see the economic impact this development may potentially have in local communities.

However, this is also an exciting time, because we are now getting out into towns and villages around the Moray Firth and sharing our plans with local people. We are giving people from throughout the area and all interest groups, an informal forum in which they can share their concerns and opinions with us.

I personally believe this is a critical part of the project – and I hope you will come and talk to us when we visit your area. The Talisman people you will meet at these events are well informed about every aspect of this project, and they will be delighted to answer your questions. We look forward to hearing what you have to say.”



# MAKE A DATE WITH BEATRICE

The Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project is of interest to a wide range of stakeholders. Many of these are national and international organisations, but many of the most important stakeholders are to be found in communities around the shores of the Moray Firth from Wick to Fraserburgh.

While we will continue to make information about the project accessible via the website – [www.beatricewind.co.uk](http://www.beatricewind.co.uk) – we also recognise there is tremendous value to meeting local people and hearing their opinions.

Our summer programme of local consultation events is designed to facilitate that process. In a series of 14 events, we will be giving local people an opportunity to talk to us. Each event will run from noon through until 8.00pm – and will be open to one and all.

Each event will also provide you with an opportunity to meet key Talisman people and put your questions direct to us either one-to-one or in small informal groups. It is local listening – and we hope to hear from you.

Location	Venue	Date
Wick	MacKay's Hotel Union Street, Wick	25th July
Lybster	Portland Arms Hotel Lybster, Caithness	26th July
Helmsdale	Belgrave Arms Hotel Dunrobin Street, Helmsdale	15th August
Brora	Royal Marine Hotel Golf Road, Brora	16th August
Golspie	Ben Bhraggie Hotel Old Bank Road, Golspie	17th August
Dornoch	Dornoch Castle Hotel Castle Street, Dornoch	18th August
Tain	Mansfield Castle Hotel Scotsburn Road, Tain	19th August
Cromarty	Lighthouse Field Station George Street, Cromarty	22nd August
Inverness	Royal Highland Hotel 18 Academy Street, Inverness	23rd August
Nairn	Windsor Hotel Albert Street, Nairn	24th August
Burghead	Commercial Hotel 4-8 Young Street, Burghead	25th August
Buckie	Marine Hotel Marine Place, Buckie	29th August
Banff	Banff Springs Hotel Golden Knowes Road, Banff	30th August
Fraserburgh	Saltoun Arms Hotel Saltoun Square, Fraserburgh	31st August

## Consultation kicks off



**The first major consultation event for the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project was held in Tulloch Castle Hotel, Dingwall on 6th May.**

Organised by the Moray Firth Partnership with support from Talisman, the day-long workshop was attended by 47 participants including representatives of community councils, local authorities, fishermen's organisations, harbour authorities, MSPs, and environmental groups.

The aims of the workshop were to give an update on the project, consider the Scoping Report, identify stakeholders' concerns and how these might be addressed, and map out the consultation process for 2005.

Talisman's Environmental Manager, Jan Rusin, presented an overview of the project and the Scoping Report. A summary of the discussion which followed is available online at [www.morayfirth-partnership.org](http://www.morayfirth-partnership.org)

In a number of smaller workshops, MFP and Talisman then invited delegates to discuss a range of issues including the ongoing consultation process. (Summary reports of the workshops are accessible via the MFP website.)

The feedback from these workshops has proved very useful, and Talisman would like to thank all the delegates for their time and energy.

## WIND FARM ON THE AGENDA

The Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project was also high on the agenda at the annual conference of the Moray Firth Partnership (MFP) held in Inverness on Monday 23rd May.

At a morning workshop, Talisman's Environment Manager, Jan Rusin, presented a short overview of the project

to a full room – and then answered questions from the floor. The subjects discussed ranged from the cost of traditional piling, the duration of the demonstrator project and the use of radar surveys to monitor bird migration patterns. A summary of key questions and answers can be found at [www.beatricewind.co.uk](http://www.beatricewind.co.uk)

## A FOCUS ON FISHERIES LIAISON

Talisman and the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project were well represented at the Fisheries Liaison Seminar in Edinburgh on Tuesday 14th June.

The seminar was sponsored by UKOOA, and one of the principal topics on the agenda was

'Offshore Renewables Projects and interaction with Fishermen'. With delegates representing a wide range of public and private sector organisations, the event provided an excellent opportunity for an open and useful exchange of opinions and information.

# BIRD STUDIES UNDERWAY ON BEATRICE

As part of the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project new research is now underway to look at the potential effects deepwater turbines may have on bird populations.

Under the EU-funded part of this project, the University of Lund in Sweden is continuing its studies which have shown no large impact on migrating seabirds from the Swedish wind farms studied. Our workscope on Beatrice includes platform-based ornithological studies, an experimental radar study supported by a full-time MPhil student, a Masters project on collision risk assessment,

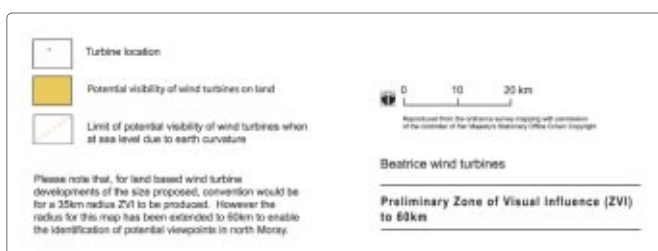
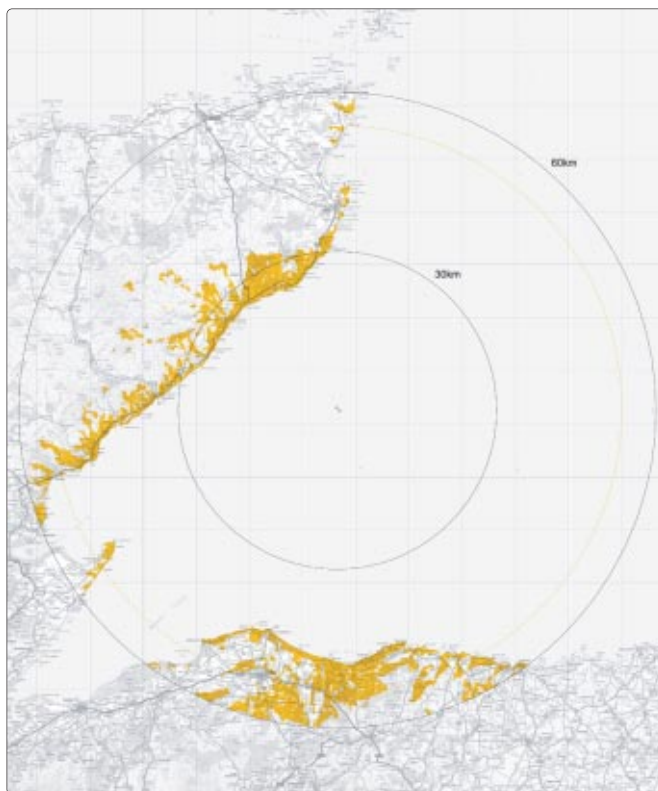
and work on developing flight height estimation methods. These studies will compliment the comprehensive baseline survey of the Moray Firth carried out by the owners of the Beatrice field in the 1980s.

Talisman has discussed the scope of these studies with RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Department of Trade and Industry, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. All parties are in agreement that the studies will provide the type of data required to inform a subsequent environmental impact assessment for the Demonstrator Project.



Kate Brookes, Aberdeen University, on Beatrice

## Assessing the visual impact



## STUDY SET TO TRACK THE TRACKERS

Studies have commenced to assess the possible visual impact of the Beatrice Wind Farm demonstrator turbines. This visual and landscape impact assessment (VLIA) is following the guidelines produced by Scottish Natural Heritage and by The Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Assessment.

Although the Demonstrator Project will be located about 25km offshore, it will still be possible, under ideal conditions, to see parts of the structures from the coast. The initial zone of visual influence (ZVI) produced for the Scoping Report shows the areas of the coast from which it would theoretically be possible to see the turbines (see Figure). The fact that the ZVI uses a radius of 60km from the site, rather than the more usual 30km, has been welcomed by statutory consultees.

The VLIA will determine the nature and significance of potential visual impacts. In addition, scaled photomontages will be produced to show how the turbines will appear from various coastal viewpoints.

It is recognised that wind farms may cause interference with radar and air traffic control facilities. This is more likely with large numbers of turbines, but a specialist study is now being undertaken for the demonstrator project to help assess any possible effects.

Although the Ministry of Defence has already indicated that it has no concerns, the study will identify telecommunication facilities, aerodromes and airstrips, and all types of radar, in the vicinity of the proposed site.

The operators or owners of all such facilities will be consulted. It is anticipated, however, that the additional presence of the two turbines near the existing Beatrice platforms will not result in significant effects.



## MORE TECHNICAL CONTRACTS AGREED SOON

Excellent progress is being made in appointing the technical contractors for the Beatrice Wind Farm Demonstrator Project.

In April we announced that Amec, the international project management and services company, had been awarded a contract for the engineering design and project management. Then, in early June, we agreed

a contract with RE Power to supply two turbines which at 5MW each are among the very first of the next generation of large wind power turbines.

Over the next few months we expect to award several more key contracts. The process of evaluating and selecting our fabrication contractor is nearing completion and we should be able to make an announcement

during the summer. Likewise we are approaching the end of our technical review of the proposals for the installation of the two turbines and this contract should also be awarded soon.

*In the next issue of Windward, we will look in more depth at our chosen contractors, the successful companies who will be helping us to make the Demonstrator Project a reality.*

## TALK TO US

For more information on the Beatrice Wind Farm demonstrator project please send an email to: [environment@talisman.co.uk](mailto:environment@talisman.co.uk)

Or write to:

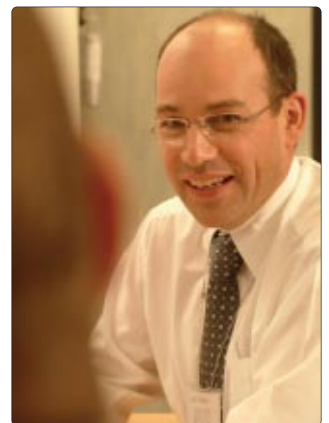
Jan Rusin  
Environment Manager  
Talisman Energy (UK) Ltd  
Talisman House  
Holburn Street  
Aberdeen AB10 6BZ

## Investigating the feasibility of suction piling

We continue to investigate the use of suction piles to secure the two turbines to the seabed. Early studies have confirmed that it is feasible, but they have also revealed that within the scope of the Demonstrator Project there are a number of technical and practical hurdles to be overcome.

In the first instance, there is the sheer size of the suction piles. Initial studies have shown that units which measure 8m in diameter by 14.5m in height may be required. This creates some practical issues given the size of the installation vessels currently available to us. It is also clear that suction piles

would require to be modified to reflect seabed conditions at each installation point – and we therefore require more data to discover if this is going to be feasible. In the meantime, we continue to review the design and look at alternatives that meet our environmental and commercial objectives.



# www.beatricewind.co.uk

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