

Western Link Project Update



westernlink

securing our energy network

July 2014 – April 2015

Contractors

The construction of the Western Link is being carried out by a consortium of Siemens for the converter stations and Prysmian Group for cable installation.

Our work in this area up to June 2014

In late 2013 Siemens started preparations for constructing the Hunterston converter station. They installed a 2.5 kilometre long perimeter fence, demolished the derelict buildings that were on site and started the earthworks needed before the main construction work could begin.

Construction of the converter station is expected to be complete in late 2016.

In late June 2014, Prysmian started constructing a temporary compound 750 metres along Portencross Road from its junction with the A78, in the field north of the road. They will be in the local area installing two underground cables between Hunterston converter station and Ardnail Bay until around July 2015.



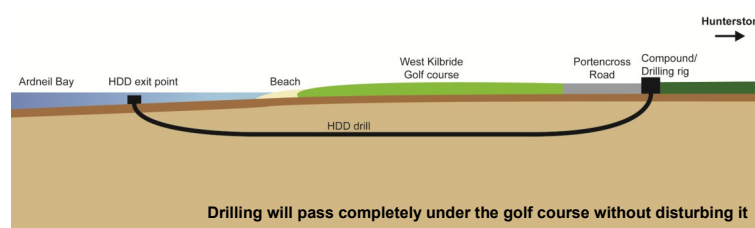
Construction work at Hunterston in January 2014

July-November 2014

Starting around the middle of July, Prysmian plan to carry out horizontal directional drilling for approximately eight weeks so they can install the pipes that they will pull the marine cables through next year. The work will not affect the golf course as the drilling will be from the compound, under Portencross Road and straight under the golf course, out to Ardnail Bay.

Additional equipment such as a generator, drilling rig and lighting will be installed in the compound for the drill, which will run continuously, 24 hours a day. Noise reduction measures will be installed to control the impact of the drilling work.

Towards the end of July, Prysmian plans to start setting up a corridor approximately 20m wide through the fields towards Goldenberry Hill. This will involve installing fencing, stripping the topsoil and laying a temporary stone haul road so machinery can move along the corridor to prepare a trench for cable installation. The work will take around two months.



Prysmian expects to start installing the cables in this trench by around the end of September and to complete the work during November.

Early 2015

After the winter, Prysmian plan to remove the fencing either side of the corridor and reinstate the land. They anticipate completing this by early summer.

Late spring next year, Prysmian will be pulling the marine cables through the pipes installed under the golf course.

A pre-condition survey of Portencross Road has been carried out with North Ayrshire Council. Once Prysmian has finished working in your area a further survey will be carried out and any damage caused to the road surface by construction traffic working on the Western Link project will be remedied.

The Western Link Project

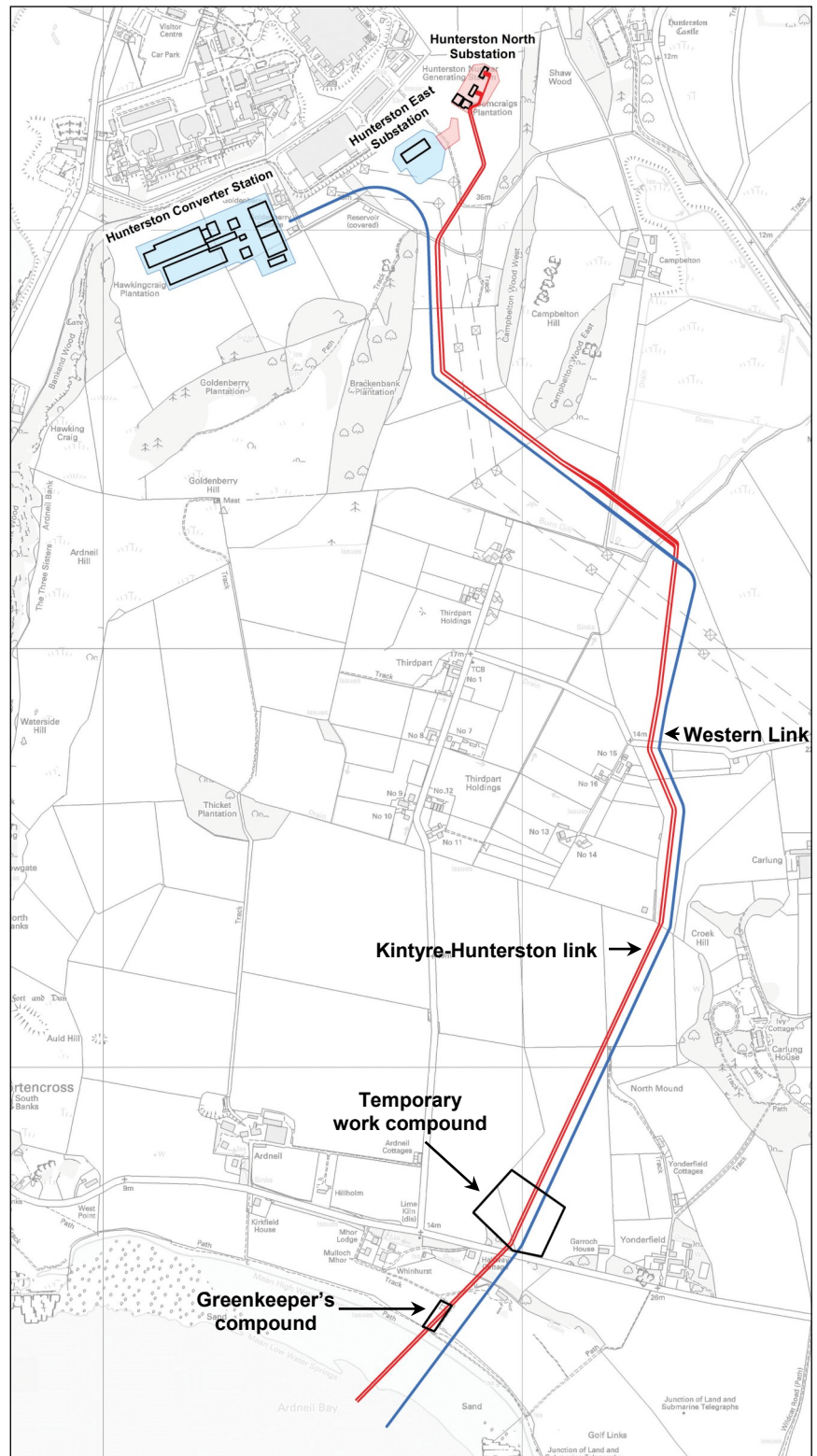
ScottishPower Transmission and National Grid have come together in a joint venture to build the Western Link, a £1 billion undersea cable project which will take renewable energy from Scotland to homes and businesses in England and Wales.



The Western Link will transmit up to 2,200MW (megawatts) of direct current (DC) electricity from Scotland to England and Wales, bypassing the bottlenecks on the existing national transmission network. Because the electricity we use in our homes, schools and offices is alternating current (AC), we need a converter station at each end of the link to change the electricity from DC to AC before we can use it.

Here in Scotland, the converter station will be at Hunterston, next to the nuclear power stations. We will install a short length of underground AC cable to connect the converter station to a new electricity substation.

The Western Link cable will go underground for about 4km from the new converter station to Ardnell Bay. From here, it will travel 385km under the Irish Sea to the Wirral peninsula, then underground for about 30km to reach the second converter station in Deeside, Flintshire. Cables under the River Dee will connect to National Grid's substation at Connah's Quay, from where the electricity will flow on to homes, schools and businesses.



Contact details for this project

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