

FINAL STAGE UNDERWAY AT BAILE AN TRUISEIL

The final phase of construction works commenced at Baile an Truiseil this week with excavations for cable trenches getting underway on Monday. North West Aggregates began to create trenches for electrical cables from Druim nan Carnan towards the substation building across the main road and Prelec, high voltage electrical contractors, were due to arrive this week to undertake cable laying.

Enercon also started this week on commissioning of the two new turbines and it is expected this work will continue until the end of the month, with the prospect of the turbines being operational in the first half of August. This timing is ideal for the Feed-In Tariff registration process as it would ensure the project can secure the most favourable rates available before any further UK Government reviews of the financial support mechanism can occur.

Some disappointing news emerged this month from the UK Chancellor's Summer Budget with the ending of the Climate Change Levy exemption which means that a useful income stream for the turbines will be brought to an end from August this year. The net impact would be around £50,000 loss of income per annum and, whilst this is not significant, it does reduce the funds available to Urras Oighreachd Ghabhsainn to distribute across the Estate over the lifetime of the project. Representations are being made to the UK Energy Minister and the Department of Energy and Climate Change by the Scottish Government and various organisations within the renewables industry in Scotland in the hope of exemptions being negotiated for community wind energy developers.