

# OIL AND GAS CAPABILITIES

Caithness and Sutherland

VESPUCCI

SCRABSTER



Highlands and Islands Enterprise  
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean



Subsea fabrication, Caithness

## CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND OIL AND GAS CAPABILITIES

Caithness is situated on the north east edge of the British mainland, in the centre of an area defined by its rich energy resources. The area is able to support these activities with modern deepwater harbours at Scrabster and Wick. These harbours provide vital gateways to the network of onshore and inland services essential to future oil and gas developments.

Caithness has ports at Wick and Scrabster, with existing warehouse facilities and office accommodation, ready to provide operational and supply bases. Caithness and Sutherland region offers the shortest distance from the mainland to West of Shetland oilfields and therefore reduces operational costs and transport of personnel.

For over half a century Caithness has been home to Dounreay, one of the world's most technologically advanced nuclear energy projects. The nuclear plant has allowed the region to develop a specialised supply chain and a dedicated, skilled workforce that is capable of serving a wide range of industries all over the world.

### CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND AT A GLANCE

2011 POPULATION  
**38,089**

AREA  
**770,000 hectares**

DISTANCE FROM ABERDEEN  
**211 miles**

MAJOR SETTLEMENT  
**Thurso and Wick**

KEY PORTS  
**Wick Harbour and Scrabster Harbour**



Scrabster Harbour

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### Demographics

Mid-year 2011 estimates showed that 23,459 of the population in Caithness and Sutherland were of working age.

### Education

The North Highland College main campus is located in Thurso with an annexe in Wick. Major investment has seen the construction of the Centre for Energy and the Environment and the world-class Engineering Technology and Energy Centre which allows Caithness to build on its strong reputation for producing high quality science and engineering based skills.

### Quality of Life

With a thriving industry and business culture, excellent telecommunications, IT capability and transport links, a skilled labour force and excellent quality of life, Caithness is the ideal location for oil and gas related businesses. Caithness General Hospital is located in Wick, a five-minute drive from Wick harbour, and has the capability of responding to emergencies.

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### Transport Links

Direct daily flights to Aberdeen and Edinburgh are available from Wick/John O'Groats airport. Offshore helicopter servicing/refuelling is carried out at the airport, mainly on flights to West of Shetland. A network of modern harbours, car and passenger and freight ferries completes the fully comprehensive transport network for all business travel and shipping requirements. Rail services connect Thurso, Wick and other communities with Inverness, where fast train links and flights depart to major cities across the UK and Amsterdam. A railhead has been constructed at Georgemas, six miles from Thurso, which can be utilised for general freight.

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### Supply Chain

The region offers access to a high calibre, skilled workforce. Many are former employees of the pioneering Dounreay nuclear site, which is currently being decommissioned. As a consequence, other businesses in the region are able to access vital skills and expertise that are capable of transitioning into the oil and gas industry.

Local companies have established engineering, manufacturing and fabrication capabilities to meet industry standards and can provide specialist engineering services from design to manufacturing. The area has a reputation for high quality manufacturing, light and heavy fabrication, the production of high quality precision products and operations and maintenance. A comprehensive supply chain for Caithness can be found at [www.hi-energy.org.uk](http://www.hi-energy.org.uk) and [www.energynorth.co.uk/Documents/Fabrication-Doc-2013-Final-Version.aspx](http://www.energynorth.co.uk/Documents/Fabrication-Doc-2013-Final-Version.aspx)



Wick Harbour

# WICK HARBOUR

Wick harbour is the UK's most northerly east coast port, with 24/7 access. The port has experience of handling traditional energy-related cargos including pipelines, towheads, wind turbines and the fabrication/load out of large offshore structures. The site holds large tracts of land/premises for development and a variety of support services. Extensive parking and storage is available in and around the harbour.

### Utilities and Facilities

- Fresh water available on all quays – maximum 50 T/ hr
- Electricity on main working quays
- Local BT exchange
- O Mast on North Floodlight Tower
- Broadband Wifi
- Mains gas nearby
- Weighbridge
- Fire station beside slipway

### Transport Links

Excellent road access, with a direct route from south and Wick/John O'Groats Airport is one mile from the harbour, with three return flights from Aberdeen and one to Edinburgh daily.

### Contact

Harbour Office  
 T +44 (0)1955 602030  
 E office@wickharbour.co.uk

### WICK HARBOUR AT A GLANCE

#### OWNERSHIP

**Wick Harbour Authority**

#### WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE

**River Harbour/North Quay  
 4.2m CD**

#### VESSEL ACCESS

**Sand bar in river approach channel  
 2.6m but with dredging proposed  
 to 8.0m CD**

#### PLANNING STATUS

**Wick Harbour Authority has  
 permitted development powers  
 for port related facilities**

#### QUAYSIDE LENGTH/WEIGHT BEARING

**Total quayside of 1,366m. North  
 River Pier has recently constructed  
 heavy lift area designed for UDL  
 (uniformly distributed load) of  
 75kN/m<sup>2</sup> and KEL (Knife Edge Load)  
 of 750kN**





Scrabster Harbour

## SCRABSTER HARBOUR

Scrabster's strategic geographic location, on the northerly tip of Scotland, offers significant competitive advantages to a wide range of industry sectors, including renewable energy, oil and gas and fishing. It acts as the main ferry port for the Orkney Islands and as a commercial port for major subsea service contractors and is ideally located at the Atlantic frontier. Investments at Scrabster now mean large offshore vessels can access the port at any tide.

### Craneage

Stevedoring and plant hire, with modern craneage from 35 to 1000 tonnes capacity using a full range of cranes and qualified personnel.

### SCRABSTER HARBOUR AT A GLANCE

OWNERSHIP  
**Scrabster Harbour Trust**

WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE  
**Queen Elizabeth (QE) lay by: 8m**  
**QE Ro-Ro: 9m**  
**St Ola Ro-Ro: 5.5m**  
**St Ola lay by one: 4.5m**  
**St Ola lay by two: 3m**

VESSEL ACCESS  
**Unrestricted access for vessels up to 180m LOA, 7.5m draft and no beam restrictions. Sheltered harbour accessible 24/7**

PLANNING STATUS  
**Scrabster land development is a designated Enterprise Area**

QUAYSIDE LENGTH  
**QE lay by: 180m**  
**QE Ro-Ro: 155m**  
**St Ola Ro-Ro: 110m**  
**St Ola lay by one: 80m**  
**St Ola lay by two: 120m**



Scrabster Harbour

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#### Utilities and Facilities

- Open and secure storage available
- Waste disposal
- Weighbridge
- Anchorage
- Pilotage
- High speed fuel and water delivery (at 100 tonnes/hr).
- Space for installation of silos or other bulk facilities

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#### Development

The port is developing a 32 acre site close to the harbour to accommodate both primary clients and their supporting businesses. This area has been designated an enterprise area by Scottish Government.

#### Transport Links

Scrabster is the most northerly mainland port, between 8-12 hours sailing time from the Northern North Sea and West of Shetland Oilfields. The port is only a six hour truck journey from Aberdeen and Peterhead and more oil companies are beginning to take

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advantage of the huge benefits Scrabster Harbour has to offer.

Located on the A9, the main trunk road links Thurso to Inverness and to the rest of the south. Freight and passenger train networks are situated in Thurso and the site is 20 miles from Wick Airport.

#### Contact

Harbour Office  
Scrabster  
T +44 (0) 1847 892779  
E [harbour@scrabster.co.uk](mailto:harbour@scrabster.co.uk)

For more information please contact:

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