

OIL AND GAS CAPABILITIES

Inner Moray Firth



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean



FPSO at Nigg Energy Park. Picture dgordon photography

INNER MORAY FIRTH OIL AND GAS CAPABILITIES

The energy sector has played a pivotal role in the economic history of the Inner Moray Firth area and the unique geographical landscape continues to present Scotland's oil and gas industry with an invaluable resource.

The Nigg fabrication yard was a key manufacturing site during the North Sea oil and gas boom years in the late 20th century and includes Europe's largest dry dock, employing 5,000 people at its peak.

At the Ardersier site, 30 years of large-scale platform fabrication was carried out on the 138 acre site and at its peak employed over 3,000 people.

The Inner Moray Firth area offers excellent sites for manufacturing, maintenance, decommissioning and a supply chain that can support a whole wealth of industry related services, with major, deep-water, port-side facilities at Nigg, Invergordon and Ardersier.

INNER MORAY FIRTH AT A GLANCE

2011 (ESTIMATE) POPULATION
146,000

AREA
806,000 hectares

DISTANCE FROM ABERDEEN
105 miles

MAJOR SETTLEMENT
Inverness

KEY PORTS
Nigg, Ardersier and Invergordon



Oil Rigs, Cromarty Firth

Demographics

Stretching from Ross-shire south to Badenoch and Strathspey, the Inner Moray Firth is the most densely populated area in the Highlands and Islands - with a growing population of over 146,000 people, more than a third of them living in the Highland capital, Inverness. The employment rate in the IMF area is 75.7%, higher than the Scottish average.

Education

The University of the Highlands and Islands is the main higher education institution based in the Highlands of Scotland. UHI is a partnership of colleges, learning and research centres, working together to provide university-level education – with over 800 students studying an engineering course across its different locations, with courses including BSc Mechanical Engineering among others. The UHI network is committed to providing courses that present relevant content by working closely with local employers.

Quality of Life

The Inner Moray Firth area offers an outstanding quality of life, with the Scottish Highlands providing a dramatic landscape, ideal for outdoor sports and leisure pursuits, from climbing, hunting and fishing to sailing, skiing and walking. The area regularly scores highly in quality of life surveys, and Inverness is frequently placed in the top five most desirable places to live, with a dynamic mixture of city amenities, varied cultural life, diverse retail areas, historical attractions and leisure tourism faculties.

Transport Links

The Inner Moray Firth region is well connected to the rest of Scotland by major trunk road, train, air and ferry networks. The A9 links Inverness to the south, with Edinburgh 157 miles and Glasgow 171 miles away. The A96 links the region to Aberdeen, 105 miles from Inverness. Inverness airport provides regular flights to major UK cities and Amsterdam and there are mainline railway services that connect Inverness directly with London, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, with regular local train services North on the Wick line.

Supply Chain

The Inner Moray Firth offers a wide variety of supply chain services that can support a whole range of manufacturing, fabrication and maintenance activities, including; IT services, crane hire, machining and grinding, paint blasting and coating, rig support services, project management, rope access, metal forming, welding and shaping. For a comprehensive Inner Moray Firth supply chain please visit www.hi-energy.org.uk and www.energynorth.co.uk/documents/fabrication-doc-2013-final-version.aspx



Port of Ardersier, Inner Moray Firth

PORT OF ARDERSIER - MORAY FIRTH

PORT OF ARDERSIER AT A GLANCE

OWNERSHIP

Port of Ardersier Ltd

WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE

5m but with the potential to be dredged to 8-9m

VESSEL ACCESS

Dredging of sand required for outer channel

PLANNING STATUS

Existing consent for oil and gas fabrication

QUAYSIDE LENGTH/WEIGHT BEARING

1000m quayside with various strong points capable of supporting structures up to 25,000 tonnes

The Ardersier site has direct access to the Moray Firth and North Sea, lending itself to large-scale manufacturing, fabrication and construction, with assembly, lay down and flotation facilities for ocean-going vessels. Previous use of the site was for the fabrication of large-scale structures for the oil and gas industry in the North Sea. At its height the fabrication yard employed approximately 4,500 people, it was operational for almost 30 years closing in 2001. Port of Ardersier Ltd (formerly Whiteness Property Company Ltd), purchased the site in 2004.

Craneage

Available locally.

Available Land

The principle site area of some 109 hectares (270 acres) has now been remediated leaving a hard core, level yard ready for development, offering one of the largest development areas of any site in the country.

Utilities and Facilities

- 1,000m quayside, with deep water harbour is protected by a naturally occurring long sand and shingle spit
- There are currently no buildings on site
- water, gas and electricity, foul sewerage connection to local sewerage system

Transport Links

The site is located approximately 14 miles east from the city of Inverness and 2 miles from Nairn. Scotland's other major cities are easily accessed by a well serviced road, rail and air network. Aberdeen lies 95 miles to the east and from Ardersier most major UK towns and cities are within legal day HGV driving, reaching 90% of the UK population.

Inverness airport is located 4 miles to the west of Ardersier.

Access to Ardersier is taken directly from the A96 trunk road between Inverness and Nairn on to a well constructed link road which previously served the former Fabrication Yard.

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Invergordon service base, Cromarty Firth

INVERGORDON SERVICE BASE – CROMARTY FIRTH

INVERGORDON SERVICE BASE AT A GLANCE

OWNERSHIP
Cromarty Firth Port Authority

WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE
8-12m below chart datum

VESSEL ACCESS
All berths accessible at all states of the tide and in all weather conditions

PLANNING STATUS
Cromarty Firth Port Authority has permitted development powers for port related facilities

QUAYSIDE LENGTH/WEIGHT BEARING
400 metres alongside quay with fixed fenders and 50/250 tonne SWL mooring bollards and two 1,000-tonne load-out heavy lift pads. Adjoining hard-standing land has a weight loading of 7 tonnes/m². Proposed new quay would provide an additional 200m of alongside quay

Invergordon is a deep water port facility with good rail and road access. It was constructed in the 1980s and is a fully operational, modern, commercial port, currently specialising in sub-sea engineering, offshore fabrication, O&M, inspection, repair and maintenance (IRM) of oil rigs, logistic support and vessel agencies for the offshore oil and gas industry.

The port provides dedicated vessel bunkering facilities, transit sheds, storage areas, modern weighbridge and project office accommodation.

Invergordon benefits from an experienced specialist supply chain and skilled work force in the engineering, fabrication and maintenance of subsea structures. The Cromarty Firth has a worldwide reputation for its sheltered, safe, deep, Category 'C' waters.

Craneage

Craneage is available locally, with mobile cranes up to 1,000t.

Utilities and Facilities

- Secure storage
- Alongside bunkers and fresh water services available on request
- Electric power and mains water available

Transport Links

With excellent transport links, Invergordon is the port of choice for many of the world's largest rig operators. The port boasts excellent road access with direct access from the public highway to quays. On the A96, Aberdeen sits 125 miles south of Invergordon Service Base and Inverness airport 30 miles.

Contact

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Port of Inverness, Moray Firth

PORT OF INVERNESS

PORT OF INVERNESS AT A GLANCE

OWNERSHIP

Inverness Harbour Trustees

WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE

North Longman: dredged to 5m below chart datum; Longman: dredged to 5.5m below chart datum; North Citadel: dredged to 3.0m below chart datum; South Citadel (Tanker Berth): dredged to 5m below chart datum

VESSEL ACCESS

As a result of its sheltered location, the port can offer companies almost guaranteed access irrespective of the weather

PLANNING STATUS

Plans are being prepared for further expansion around the marina where the proposals include hotel, leisure and retail development as well as offering further expansion of the port's commercial activities

QUAYSIDE LENGTH/ WEIGHT BEARING

North Longman: 150m in length and /dedicated heavy lift pad that can take individual lifts of 200 tonnes – this can be increased significantly with the use of spreaders; Longman: 340m in length; North Citadel: 100m in length; South Citadel (Tanker Berth): 150m

Situated in the Highlands and Islands' most populated city, the Port of Inverness has been at the heart of the city's growth and expansion and is one of Scotland's most sheltered and natural deep-water ports. Trading with the rest of the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, the Baltics and the European Union, the port handles a diverse range of cargoes including oil/fuel, packaged timber, round logs, sterling board, woodchips, coal, salt, animal feeds, frozen fish and a diverse range of other goods.

The port has recently undergone considerable expansion and can now offer modern facilities to companies including extensive laydown areas, covered storage, and a brand new entrance designed to accommodate extra-long loads of up to 50m turbine blade length.

The port has four main quays, comfortably capable of accommodating six vessels at any one time. Depending upon size, more could easily be berthed.

Craneage

Available locally.

Utilities and Facilities

- Weighbridge
- Quays
- Storage
- Bunkering
- Fresh water

Transport Links

The port has excellent accessibility to the City of Inverness and the wider Highland region. The port lies within a mile of the city centre along Longman Drive and Shore Street, which links into Academy Street. The port also has excellent rail and air links with both Inverness airport and railway station within easy reach.

Easy access to the A9 for both north and south bound traffic and the surrounding hinterland is a considerable advantage.

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Nigg Skills Academy

NIGG – CROMARTY FIRTH

NIGG ENERGY PARK AT A GLANCE

OWNERSHIP

Global Energy Group Ltd

WATER DEPTH AT QUAYSIDE

External quay 4.5m LAT, Graving dock quay 9.5m LAT up to 13.7m MHWS

VESSEL ACCESS

Unrestricted – accessible 24/7 at all states of wind and tide

PLANNING STATUS

Current planning as a multi-user site for fabrication, renewable energy device manufacture and petrochemical structure decommissioning

QUAYSIDE LENGTH/WEIGHT BEARING

400 metres alongside quay with External quayside is 435m and graving dock quayside is 20m. Total 725m. Load-out pad can take up to 1,000 tonnes

The Nigg Energy Park is strategically placed at the northern entrance to the Cromarty Firth in Ross-shire and at its peak employed over 5,000 people. The Nigg site was developed in the 1970s for the North Sea oil and gas industry and was further developed in the 1980s to include Europe's largest dry-dock. Its history, location, size and facilities make it a key location to capitalise on upcoming opportunities in the oil and gas industry.

Craneage

Craneage available on site and locally.

Utilities and Facilities

- Storage
- Waste disposal
- Towage facilities, anchorages
- Skills academy
- Bunkering, cargo handling, pilotage, navigating and security

Facilities

Boasting one of the finest dry docks of its kind in Europe, the facility can accommodate both semi-submersible and jack-up rigs; including FPSOs to carry out major repair, maintenance, enhancement and conversion projects.

The site is an ideal location for major IRM projects, the sheltered deep-water access allows the facility to be operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, supported by a range of on site facilities, including a 200-man accommodation camp, client project offices and onsite mobile and crawler cranes with a full range of engineering skill sets.

Nigg Skills Academy

Nigg Skills Academy was established at Nigg Energy Park with Global Energy Group contributing to the complete refurbishment of the old Training School facility and related high-quality testing equipment required by

industry. The training academy is delivering training for key workers across the oil, gas and renewable sectors. The academy provides trainees with the skills they require to work in the energy sector; including oil and gas rig inspection, rig repair and nuclear. The academy also provides international qualifications in welding; fabrication plate and pipe, ensuring students are trained to international standards in a real working environment.

Transport Links

The Nigg Energy Park is strategically placed at the northern entrance to the Cromarty Firth in Ross-shire, about 56km (35 miles) from the city of Inverness and 225km (140 miles) from the city of Aberdeen. High-quality road access off the A9, the main north-east trunk road, a plan for rail access exists.

Invergordon, approximately 16km (10 miles) away by road, 8km (5 miles) by sea, has a comprehensive and well-established engineering supply chain, developed to service the offshore petrochemicals industry. This includes fabrication facilities, towage, stevedoring, craneage, haulage etc, centred around excellent port facilities supporting a substantial oil rig IRM business.

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