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Connecting Europe Facility

PCI 5.2 (Cluden to Brighthouse Bay) is the recipient of European funding from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). PCI 5.2 is co-financed by the European Union's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)



GNI (UK)
Ltd.

Cluden to Brighthouse Gas Pipeline

Project Update March 2018





Project Summary

Planning permission for the construction of a pipeline between Beattock and Brighouse Bay was obtained in 2002, as part of the second Scotland to Ireland Gas Interconnector project (the first interconnector between Scotland and Ireland was completed in 1991). Phase 1 of this project was constructed in 2002, and included a 29.6km section of the pipeline between Beattock and the River Cluden (north west of Dumfries), and the subsea pipeline and landfall section at Brighouse Bay.

GNI (UK) Limited commenced construction of Phase 2 of the project in Spring 2017. Phase 2 consists of the remaining 50km of the pipeline between Cluden and Brighouse, including a 7km re-route of the pipeline between Cluden and Lochfoot.

This brochure provides our stakeholders with an overview of the project, the expected timeframe, the consultation process, environmental, construction and reinstatement.

Who we are?

GNI (UK) Limited is a wholly owned and controlled subsidiary of Gas Networks Ireland. It holds a gas interconnector licence from Ofgem authorising it to own and operate the gas interconnectors from Moffat in Scotland.

Legend

Existing Pipeline:	
2002 Consented Pipeline Constructed (29.6km):	
Proposed Consented Pipeline – PCA granted 2002:	
Proposed Pipeline Re-route – PCA granted 2016:	
Existing Installation (Block Valve):	
Proposed Installation (Block Valve):	
Town:	
Existing Infrastructure:	
Proposed Infrastructure:	



The Pipeline Route

The 50km natural gas pipeline starts at the existing GNI (UK) facility at Cluden to the north-west of Dumfries. This facility, known as a Block Valve Station, is where the pipeline will be brought above ground to facilitate operation and maintenance.

Figure 1 illustrates the pipeline route. Following in-depth studies and environmental investigations this route was selected as the preferred option and approvals sought and granted based on this proposal.

In 2007, following consultation with Scottish Water, GNI (UK) identified the need for a 7km re-route between Cluden and Lochfoot to the west of Dumfries to address concerns raised regarding potential impacts on groundwater. As a result of this re-route a Pipeline Construction Authorisation was sought and granted for this 7km section. The 50km pipeline runs to the Brighouse Bay Compressor Station.

The pipeline is being constructed using 900mm diameter high-grade steel pipe, buried to a minimum depth of 1.2m below ground level. The main impact of the proposed pipeline will be during the construction phase; however this will be relatively short term. The only above ground development will occur at the two Block Valve sites. These will be landscaped to blend in with the surrounding environment.



Figure 1



Community and Environment

Public Consultation

GNI (UK) undertook an extensive public engagement programme prior to the commencement of construction. This involved consultation with relevant stakeholders potentially affected by a pipeline project, which included individual landowners, agricultural groups, statutory bodies, environmental organisations, heritage groups and others.

Developing and maintaining good relationships is necessary to the success of any GNI (UK) project. Our aim is to be open and transparent in all our communications with the local communities located along the route of a pipeline. We act in a responsible manner and engage with those who may be impacted at each stage of the process so that concerns can be addressed as we progress the project.

GNI (UK) is committed to ensuring all works will be undertaken in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, in co-operation with the local community. A dedicated Stakeholder Liaison Officer is working with our contractor in delivering this pipeline and will ensure the local community are kept informed on progress and have the opportunity to get in touch with the project team and offer feedback during the construction period.

Environmental Protection

As with all GNI (UK) pipeline projects, a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment of the construction and maintenance of the pipeline has been carried out to assess potential impacts of the Cluden to Brighthouse Pipeline project. Any resulting mitigation measures will be implemented as required and every effort will be made to avoid any areas that are of particular environmental interest. GNI (UK) is fully committed to environmental conservation and the protection of Scottish heritage. An Environmental Clerk of Works (ECoW) has been employed to oversee activities during the construction of the pipeline as a condition of the planning consent.

Archaeology

GNI (UK) employs a team of archaeologists as part of all pipeline construction projects. A licensed Archaeologist has monitored all topsoil stripping and potential areas of archaeological interest and a report is being developed for submission to the County Archaeologist.



Construction Update

Construction of the Cluden to Brighthouse pipeline commenced in March 2017, and 28.5km of the 50km pipeline was constructed in 2017. Work is continuing in 2018 and it is expected that the remaining pipeline will be constructed, commissioned and the project completed by the end of 2018. It should be noted that at certain locations along the route of the pipeline, the construction programme has been and will continue to be developed to ensure that the environmental impact of the works is minimal.

Pipeline construction activities are being carried out by a suitably qualified contractor, appointed by GNI (UK). Safety is our first priority at all stages of pipeline construction. The latest and least intrusive engineering methods are being used and the pipeline is being built and will be operated and maintained to the highest national and international safety standards.

The pipeline is being constructed using a 'spread' technique. In advance of construction, a surveyor sets out the centre line of the pipeline and suitable fencing has been erected on both sides of the 42 metre (max.) working width.

The removal of hedges, walls and fences at field boundaries has been kept to a minimum and measures put in place, where necessary, to ensure that there is no disruption to water flow in drains/ditches.

The steel pipe sections required for the pipeline are stored at locations along the route before being strung out along the spread. The pipe sections are then clamped together and welded.

Once each weld has been radiographed and meets the specified standards, it is then coated with a sleeve to prevent corrosion. The pipe sections are then lowered into the pre-excavated trench. The trench is then backfilled to subsoil level with compaction taking place at set intervals. Before bringing the pipeline into service, the pipe and components will be subjected to rigorous testing in the field.



Each stage of the construction process is overseen by qualified inspectors to ensure compliance with the engineering plans, codes, permit conditions, landowner agreements and regulatory requirements.

What Stage Are We At Now?

Pre-Construction

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Site investigations
- Liaising with landowners
- Wayleave acquisitions
- Identification of all stakeholders on the project, meetings, brochures and public information meetings
- Statutory approvals

Construction

- Fencing off the working width
- Top-soil stripping
- Pre construction drainage
- Pipe preparation
- Pipe welding
- Trenching, installation and backfilling
- Road and river crossings
- Testing and commissioning

Post-Construction

- Drainage and reinstatement
- Pipeline operation and safety
- Continued liaison with landowners and the community

Reinstatement

Post construction, GNI (UK) will retain a 10 metre wide permanent wayleave along the route of the pipeline. This will be monitored by regular helicopter fly-overs and occasional foot patrols.

All ditch crossings will have a protective slab placed over the pipe. Following completion of the main pipe laying activities, all drains are fully replaced and reinstated.

The working width is also fully reinstated; this includes picking stones, levelling the topsoil, spreading, tilling and sowing the topsoil. Once reinstatement is completed there should be little or no evidence to show that the pipeline passed through the area.





Pipeline Statistics

Pipeline Length:	49.6 km
Pipeline Diameter:	900mm (36 inch)
Construction Timeline:	Main pipeline construction commenced in Quarter 2 2017 Planned completion including commissioning in Quarter 4 2018 (dependent on weather conditions)
Pipeline Material:	Steel pipeline
Pipeline Design Pressure:	85 barG
Numbers Employed:	Approximately 300 during peak construction season
Number of Wayleaves Along Route:	66 wayleave agreements 33 occupier agreements
Number of Crossings:	1 major road crossing (A75) – <i>completed 2017</i> 31 further road crossings – <i>completed 2017</i> 3 major river crossings– <i>completed 2017</i> with further minor waterways crossings
Land Reinstatement:	Scheduled for 2018 (this may be dependent on weather conditions)
Organisations Consulted Include:	Dumfries and Galloway Council Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) Scottish National Heritage (SNH) Scottish Water Transport Scotland Nith & Urr District Salmon Fisheries Boards

GNI (UK) is committed to ensuring all works will be undertaken in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, in co-operation with the local community.

The contractor's Stakeholder Liaison Officer is available onsite and will respond to any queries about the proposed construction works from members of the local community. The Stakeholder Liaison Officer can be contacted on the Cluden to Brighthouse Pipeline Enquiry Line at 01659 238004.



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