

Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm

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NEWSLETTER



New partner means project on track

A new partner has been found for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm project which means work will continue on schedule with the wind farm due to be operational by late 2011.

The current owner, StatoilHydro has joined forces with Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, Statkraft, to develop the wind farm off the North Norfolk coast.

Prior to this partnership agreement, the wind farm was owned 100 per cent by StatoilHydro through the joint venture company Scira Offshore Energy Ltd. Statkraft has bought 50 per cent of the shares of Scira, to become an equal partner. StatoilHydro will remain as operator during the construction phase.

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm will be the most significant wind farm project for both StatoilHydro and Statkraft. The partnership and decision to develop the project together is a significant step for both companies in terms of realising their offshore wind ambitions, particularly in the UK.

StatoilHydro and Statkraft are also one half of consortium Forewind which, together with British partners Scottish and Southern Energy and RWE npower renewables, has bid for zones in The Crown Estate's 3rd Licensing Round.

For more about the companies, please go to page 4.



Wells Harbour is the preferred operational base for the Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm.

Improving tidal access at Wells Harbour

Preparations are well underway at Wells Harbour to improve tidal access to the harbour and construct a new outer jetty with pontoons for the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

Subject to approval, the work is scheduled to commence during autumn this year and will be completed in early 2010 when the deepened channel and new jetty will be fully operational.

Wells Harbour Commissioners undertook a dredging trial and have taken advice from a leading dredging consultant, to ascertain the most effective dredging methodology for deepening the harbour entrance channel.

The Commissioners are now working closely with the consultants Royal Haskoning to produce a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be submitted to the Marine and Fisheries Agency for approval to proceed with this project. The EIA will include a detailed bird survey of the area and investigations into coastal processes for the deepened channel.

Plans are also being put in place for long term on-going maintenance of the channel at Wells, to maintain depths at the required levels for wind farm vessel access.

Contents:

Page 2 Onshore archaeology under examination

Page 3 Keith Dent to continue in landowner liaison role
Onshore contractor appointed

Page 4 Questions from the local community

Contractor roles and contact details
About the owners
Contact details

Onshore archaeology under examination



A trial trench along the line of the onshore cable route.

A programme of archaeological works is underway to assess and mitigate any impacts the cable installation may have on the archaeology along the more than 21 kilometre route and at the site of the proposed new substation in Salle.

This work is a condition of the onshore construction planning and was set out in an investigation and mitigation strategy, designed to meet the needs of Local Authority archaeological planning advisors. This phased programme of work was designed to identify previously unknown sites through a mixture of non-intrusive and intrusive exploratory techniques.

Metal detector survey

The first stage, conducted early in 2008, involved a comprehensive field walking and metal detector survey carried out along the entire length of the cable corridor. This involved the collection and plotting of the location of artefacts visible in the topsoil, which could only be carried out when crops were not growing.

Artefacts recovered from all periods

Archaeology Manager, David Whitmore said that almost 98 per cent of the route was successfully surveyed and artefacts from all periods were recovered.

“The survey revealed a number of previously unidentified sites dating from prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval times while it also reinforced the knowledge of previously found sites,” David said.

The second stage of the mitigation strategy was a geophysical survey on seven crop mark sites known from aerial photographs.

“Although the geophysical survey was non-intrusive, like the earlier survey, it could only be undertaken with little or no crop growth,” David said. “We waited until September after harvesting and carried it out in tandem with the third investigative stage, evaluation by trial trenching.”

Evaluation by trial trenching

Evaluation by trial trenching is the excavation of trenches, 30m in length and 1.8m wide, along the line of the cable route corridor. As it is an intrusive process, each landowner was kept up to date with the process and their requirements were included in the planning.

A photographic record of the condition of the location of each trench was made by the archaeological fieldwork team before the trench was excavated and again after each trench had been backfilled, to show the standard of reinstatement. Wherever possible no

trench was left open for more than 24 hours.

A total of 125 trenches have been dug out, recorded and reinstated.

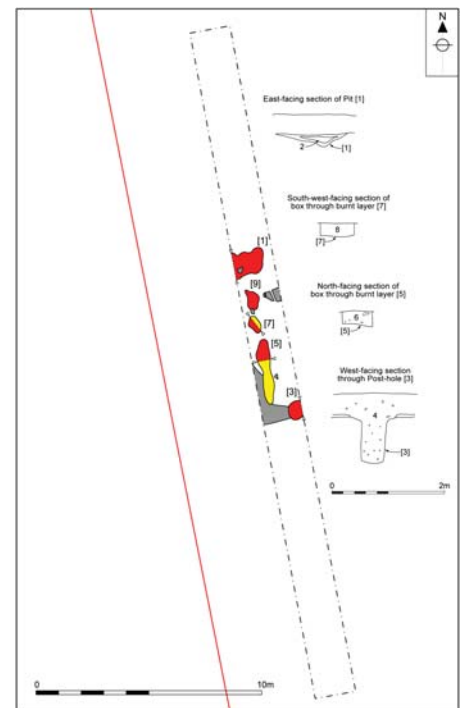
“The results of the evaluation trenching have identified several areas where further archaeological mitigation will be required to offset the impact of the cable installation,” David said.

Sites of interest

Sites of interest include a possible late Iron Age or early Roman structure that has been burnt in situ, late Saxon and early medieval occupation and structures close to the River Bure and at least two areas where a large number of ditches intersect, representing multi-period settlement and enclosures.

These sites will be monitored in liaison with planning advisors to ensure anything of interest is either preserved in situ or by record.

Excavation of the four sites identified during the evaluation stage started in April; these sites will require intensive archaeological examination. The planned programme ensures that the excavations can be completed efficiently in advance of the construction work that will follow.



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Figure 22. Plan of Trench 34. Scale 1:125

A plan showing a possible Iron Age structure in an evaluation trench.

Keith Dent to continue in landowner liaison role



Keith Dent, Landowner Liaison Officer

Keith Dent, a man familiar to anyone involved with Scira's onshore planning activities, will continue in his role throughout the onshore cable installation, maintaining overall responsibility for liaising with landowners, tenants and farmers, as well as the appointed contractor.

Keith has been working with the project, through the Freedom Group, since its

inception and will continue to be a key link between landowners and their representatives and the contractors installing the cable. He will carry out spot checks, look at site access, fencing and crop issues, meet with landowners and liaise with all parties to ensure that the work is carried out in the best possible manner.

"The project has built up good relationships with landowners, tenants and farmers over some years with regular visits and supply of information about intended works," Keith said. "Farmers have allowed us access to their land for everything from great-crested newt surveys and geotechnical site investigations to archaeology trenching.

"I look forward to continuing those relationships as we move into this next phase of the project," he added.

Keith can be contacted at any time on mobile telephone 07917 048543 or queries can be directed to Rachel Everitt at the Freedom Group office on telephone 01449 675999. He can also be emailed on: keithdent@btinternet.com.

Onshore contractor appointed

The contract for installation of the onshore cable has now been awarded to leading infrastructure, building and business services firm Carillion plc. These works will comprise the engineering, procurement, construction and installation of the more than 21km route from Weybourne to a new substation at Salle.

Carillion plc is one of the UK's leading support services and construction companies, employing around 50,000 people globally.

Work will begin in May and is expected to take approximately 18 months. A work schedule will be published in the next edition of the newsletter; however Company Representative, Onshore Cables, Nils Olav Midtlien can be contacted for further details in the meantime on email:

NOM@statoilhydro.com or via mobile: +47 9135 3850.



An aerial photograph of the onshore cable route from Weybourne to a new substation at Salle

Contractor roles and contact details

A number of major contracts have been awarded to date.

The turbines will be supplied and installed by Siemens, a major global player in electronics and electrical engineering, operating in the industry, energy and healthcare sectors. The Siemens contact is Jamie Rowlands on email:

jamie.rowlands@siemens.com or mobile: 07921242737.

The foundations will be supplied and installed by MT Højgaard, a Danish based company with a broad range of competences in building and civil works.

The MT Højgaard contact is Henrik B. Nielsen who can be emailed on: hbn@meth.dk or telephoned on mobile: +45 22709678.

Visser & Smit Marine Contracting BV, an international player in the arena of maritime cable and umbilical installation projects, will install the two 21.5 kilometre submarine export cables from the offshore substations to landfall at Weybourne. The Visser & Smit Project Manager, Jan van der Velde can be contacted via email either

j.vd.velde@vsmc.nl or j.vd.velde@vshanab.nl or on telephone: +31 627 740 858.

The export cables will be manufactured and supplied by Nexans Norway AS, a Norwegian-based worldwide leader in the cabling industry. The Nexans Project Manager is Rune Nordal who can be emailed on: rune.nordal@nexans.com, or telephoned on either: +47 69 17 30 70 or mobile +47 966 18 181.

Areva, a world energy expert, has been awarded the contract for the electrical system integration both offshore and onshore. John Toone is the Areva contact on email: john.toone@areva-td.com, telephone: 01785786274 or mobile: 07801772231.

The onshore works engineering, procurement, construction and installation contract was recently awarded to the civil engineering division of Carillion plc. The Carillion Project Manager is Danny Jones and he can be contacted on email: danny.jones@carillionplc.com or on telephone 0161 855 6000 or mobile 07766 785907.

Questions from the community

What is the projected life of the wind farm and what would the reasons be for the wind farm to be dismantled?

The lease period for the wind farm is 40 years. As part of the consent, it is agreed that the project owner will remove the wind turbines and all associated equipment above the ground at the end of the wind farm's lifespan. Continuing developments in offshore wind technology are expected to extend the operational life of wind turbines at sea, so that they may be maintained beyond this lifespan. However, this will be up to UK authorities to decide.

Will the electricity produced be used by Norfolk residents?

The electricity produced will be transported to a new substation at Salle, near Cawston, and then enter EDF Energy's regional grid, eventually connecting to the National Grid in Norwich for general use by British consumers.

How do the turbines re-start once the wind dies down?

The wind turbines operate automatically, self-starting when the wind reaches an average speed of 3–5 metres per second (m/s). The output increases with the wind speed until it reaches 13–14m/s. If the average wind speed exceeds the operational limit of 25m/s, the



turbine stops. When the wind drops back below the restart speed, the safety systems reset automatically.

How can my business get involved?

Two information days for interested local suppliers have been held in Sheringham and Wells-next-the-Sea. A third event will be held in Aylsham on April 29. This event is for both the general public as well as local businesses wishing to explore possible opportunities, specifically in relation to the onshore works of the wind farm (see details below).

They should also register to be included in a Suppliers' Directory that will be provided to all contractors. Please contact the North Norfolk Business Forum on email info@nnbf.org or telephone 01263 510709.

If you have a question you would like answered in the next Newsletter, please email info@scira.co.uk or write to Sue Vincent c/- Scira Offshore Energy Limited, Statoil House, 11a Regent Street, London, SW1Y 4ST

About the owners

StatoilHydro

StatoilHydro is an integrated technology-based international energy company primarily focused on upstream oil and gas operations. Headquartered in Norway, it has more than 30 years of experience from the Norwegian continental shelf, pioneering complex offshore projects under the toughest conditions. The company has about 29,500 employees in 40 countries. Renewable energy is one of StatoilHydro's major focus areas for the future. www.statoilhydro.com

Statkraft

Statkraft is Europe's largest generator of renewable energy, with a total installed capacity of more than 14,800 MW. The company develops and generates hydropower, wind power, gas power, solar power and district heating, and is a major player on the European energy exchanges. The company has around 3000 staff in more than 20 countries, and is wholly owned by the Norwegian state. Statkraft plans to invest nearly £10 billion in clean energy by 2015. www.statkraft.com



Onshore Works Information Day in Aylsham

Following successful supplier events in both Sheringham and Wells-next-the-Sea, a further information day has been planned for Aylsham.

Wednesday, April 29

2pm until 6.30pm

Onshore Works Information Day, Aylsham

An underground cable of more than 21km will

be installed from Weybourne to a new substation at Salle. Local companies and people living along the cable route are invited to Aylsham Town Hall to find out more about the onshore cabling programme. The onshore contractors will be on hand to discuss local business opportunities.

Contact details and more information:

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