



Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project

Phase Two Consultation Summary Report

November 2021

Introduction

Equinor is bringing forward proposals for the **Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (SEP)** and **Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Project (DEP)**, located off the North Norfolk Coast.

Thank you to those who participated in our phase two community consultation, which ran between Thursday 29 April and Thursday 10 June 2021.

We welcomed over **1260** visitors to our virtual exhibition and received over **320** pieces of feedback from the community on our proposals for SEP and DEP. This is in addition to the almost 300 pieces of feedback we received during our phase one consultation.

This Consultation Summary Report provides an overview of the feedback we received during our consultation and what we are doing in response to this feedback.

We also explain the next steps for the project, and our decision to extend our DCO application submission to early summer 2022.

About Equinor

Equinor is a broad energy company that has been operating in the UK for over 35 years and is the UK's largest energy supplier. In the UK, we currently power around **750,000** homes through our three wind farms: Sheringham Shoal, Dudgeon, and the world's first floating wind farm, Hywind Scotland.

As a key contributor to the UK's efforts to meet its net zero carbon target, Equinor is leading the way in decarbonisation. Equinor supports the UK economy, investing billions of pounds in crucial energy infrastructure, employing over **650** people based in the UK, and working with over **700** suppliers across the country.

Equinor's plans for SEP and DEP will double its offshore wind capacity off the coast of Norfolk. Equinor will also operate Dogger Bank, the largest offshore wind farm in the world, off the North East coast of England. When complete it will be capable of generating around 5% of the UK's electricity demand.

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm and Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm



Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm is owned by Equinor, Masdar and China Resources. **Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm** is owned by Equinor, Equitix and Green Investment Group.



Both wind farms have established community funds of **£100,000** per year, which in total have awarded over **£1** million to projects in Norfolk.



The funds were set up to provide grants to **Norfolk community groups**, including schools and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), seeking financial assistance for initiatives that focus on renewable energy, marine environment and safety, sustainability, or education.

Sheringham Shoal Extension Project and Dudgeon Extension Project

Equinor is the operator of the existing Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms and is now proposing to extend these assets on behalf of their two operational partnerships. SEP and DEP will be located off the coast of North Norfolk, adjacent to the operational windfarms, and will help the UK to address climate change and reach its target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

We will apply for a joint Development Consent Order (DCO), which will be determined by the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). Submission of the joint DCO application is indicatively planned for early summer 2022.

Our phase two consultation

We welcomed over 1,260 visitors to our virtual exhibition and 3,637 visitors to our consultation website and during our phase two consultation we received **325 pieces of feedback** from the community.

We held five online community Q&A sessions, focused on different parts of SEP and DEP that took place on:

- Tuesday 11 May 2pm – 4pm – Onshore substation and the grid connection
- Tuesday 18 May 6pm – 8pm – Landfall
- Tuesday 25 May 10am – 12pm – Onshore cable corridor
- Thursday 27 May 6pm – 8pm – Offshore proposals and seascape impacts
- Wednesday 2 June 6pm – 8pm – Onshore cable corridor

We publicised our consultation locally and online by:



Holding a virtual exhibition to display all the information on SEP and DEP. You can still visit our virtual exhibition at event.sepanddep.co.uk.



Distributing our community consultation leaflet to over **11,500** local residents and businesses within our core consultation zone.



Placing advertisements in a number of local newspapers, including: North Norfolk News, Eastern Daily Press, Dereham & Fakenham Times, Norwich Evening News, Diss Mercury, Lynn News, Just Regional and Lincolnshire Echo.



Engaging with your parish, district, and county councillors across the consultation zone.



Displaying posters at **local information points** across our consultation zone, such as at grocery shops, post offices and libraries.



Advertising our consultation across Equinor UK's Twitter and Facebook accounts, including targeted localised campaigns.

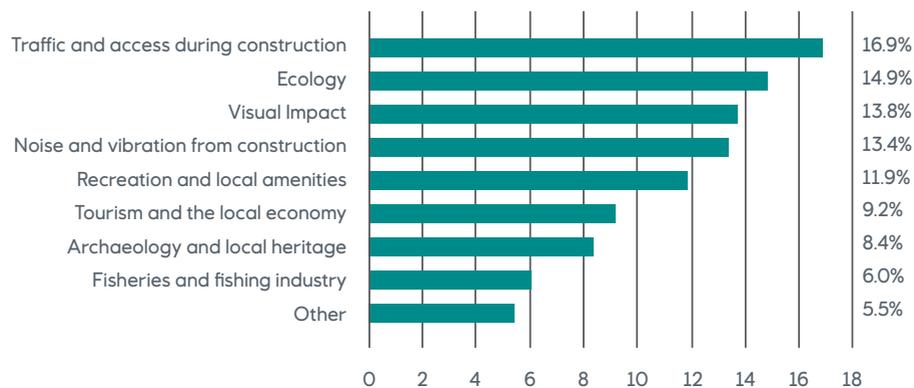


Your feedback

Our phase two community consultation provided an opportunity for people to view and comment on our latest proposals.

The feedback we have received as part of this consultation has helped to improve our understanding of the local area. We also gained an appreciation of the aspects of SEP and DEP that are important to the community and that we need to consider as we refine our proposals.

Key themes during phase two consultation



50% of respondents either supported or strongly supported SEP and DEP. 32% either did not support or strongly opposed SEP and DEP, and 18% provided a neutral view.



64% of respondents found our virtual exhibition or consultation materials very informative or quite informative.

How we've listened

There were a number of key themes which emerged from the feedback we received. These are listed below with information on what we plan to do in response.

All comments received as part of the phase two consultation will be responded to in our Consultation Report, which will be submitted as part of our DCO application.



Theme

Ecology, nature conservation and biodiversity net gain



Your comments

Respondents highlighted the importance of considering and mitigating ecological and environmental impacts of SEP and DEP, mentioning multiple specific species that should be taken into consideration.



What we are doing

Avoiding and minimising ecological impacts has been important throughout the development of SEP and DEP.

In our Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) we included the outcomes of our ecological surveys to date, and we have been continuing these surveys throughout the year.

This additional data has directly influenced the refinement of our proposals. For example, since the phase two consultation we have:

- Refined the PEIR boundary to exclude key ecological features such as ponds, known badger setts and trees with bat roost potential.
- Introduced additional trenchless crossings to avoid tree and hedgerow removal.
- Committed to cross all woodland habitat using trenchless crossing techniques.
- Reduced the size of the landfall area to minimise the impact to grassland habitat.
- Identified land within the DCO boundary to deliver long term ecological enhancements and a biodiversity net gain.



Theme Offshore Transmission Network Review



Your comments

A number of local residents and some parish councils have expressed concerns that North Norfolk has been subject to multiple windfarm developments and questioned whether Equinor could utilise an Offshore Transmission Network as an alternative.



What we are doing

The Offshore Transmission Network Review (OTNR) is a government process which they have recently consulted on to identify potential legislation to enable coordination between wind farms, and their related infrastructure. The OTNR is focussed on finding short, medium and long term solutions to coordination, depending on where projects are in their planning timeline.

We held an OTNR virtual information session for parish and town councils to provide further explanation for the context of the OTNR process being led by BEIS, and how SEP and DEP are feeding into this government review. We understand that this is an important issue locally and have put SEP and DEP forward to be a pathfinder project within the OTNR.

Additionally, we are engaging with government, industry bodies, and other developers to support the work going into this coordination project. To learn more about SEP and DEP's role in the OTNR, please watch the recording of the OTNR Virtual Information Session on our website: <https://sepanddep.commonplace.is/proposals/10-community-q-as>.

While there will be no viable offshore transmission network for Equinor to utilise within the timeframes for SEP and DEP, we have committed to reducing impacts on local communities by taking a joined-up approach and bringing together two separately owned offshore wind farm extensions into one single DCO application and it's our intention to install both cables within a shared onshore footprint.



Theme Electromagnetic fields (EMFs)



Your comments

People questioned whether there would be any health impacts associated with EMFs from the onshore cables.



What we are doing

As with all electrical appliances and equipment used at home (TV, vacuum cleaners, electric razors, etc.), the required infrastructure for SEP and DEP will generate EMFs. However, EMFs fall rapidly with distance from the source, and the electric field is shielded in order to remain significantly below guideline EMF levels for public health protection.

To demonstrate the above we commissioned an independent study by National Grid which assessed the strength of EMFs along the onshore cable corridor. The study can be found in Appendix 30.1 within our PEIR: <https://sepanddep.commonplace.is/proposals/11-peir-documentation>.

These calculations were performed by an independent third party in accordance with relevant standards to provide impartial, accurate and reliable analysis, and which demonstrate that the magnetic fields will be significantly lower than the exposure levels identified by Public Health England as being safe to human health.

Furthermore, the study explains that the view of health protection bodies, based on a wide-ranging health evidence, is that low-frequency EMF is not a cause of health risks and that the guideline exposure standards in place are appropriate to protect health.

The EMF study is currently being updated to account for design changes in other projects in the vicinity of SEP and DEP to give the correct assessment of any potential cumulative effects. The final report will be shared as part of our DCO application.



Theme

Traffic and access during construction



Your comments

As flagged during phase one consultation, people expressed concerns about disruption caused by construction traffic and access to the narrow road network in Norfolk. Additionally, consultees requested further detailed traffic information and stated the importance of keeping the community informed on possible traffic disruption.



What we are doing

We know that traffic and access during the construction of SEP and DEP is one of the key concerns for the local community. In our phase two consultation we presented information on the estimated traffic numbers on local roads and the potential impacts of this. We also set out the mitigation that would be required to ensure that these impacts are not significant.

Based on the feedback received during our phase two consultation and further studies and engagement we have:

- More than doubled the number of proposed trenchless road crossings.
- Committed to access the onshore substation from the A140, thereby avoiding access from the B1113, unless in exceptional circumstances.
- Repositioned numerous construction access locations to meet landowner requests, avoid ecological features and to ensure road safety.
- Worked with Norfolk County Council and National Highways to further refine the construction routing strategy access points, and main construction compound location. Information on the main construction compound can be found on pages 18 and 19.
- Refined the vehicle movement data that will feed into the updated assessment work for our DCO application.

As part of our DCO application we will also be producing an Outline Construction Traffic Management Plan, which will incorporate measures to address concerns raised during the phase two consultation. For example, the use of pilot vehicles on narrow roads to avoid hard engineering (i.e. passing places) where possible.



Refining our proposals

The feedback we received has helped us to refine our proposals for SEP and DEP.

Landfall

Using feedback from phase two consultation and further environmental and technical analysis, we have now reduced the size of the landfall area considerably. The route of the onshore cable corridor from landfall at Weybourne to Bodham, has also been refined. Please read the 'Landfall' section of this leaflet to learn more.

Onshore cable corridor

Using a wide range of data and information, including feedback from the phase two consultation, the width of the onshore cable corridor has been reduced from 200 metres to 60 metres. A wider corridor of 100 metres has been maintained for trenchless crossings at locations such as main rivers and woodland.

Construction compounds

We have now selected our preferred main construction compound location following an extensive site selection process. Please read the 'Onshore construction compounds' section of this leaflet to learn more about the range of considerations that fed into this decision.

Onshore substation search area

Feedback from the phase two consultation, alongside technical and environmental considerations played a key part in the decision to select Site 1 as our preferred onshore substation site. Please read the 'Onshore substation and access' section of this leaflet to learn more.



A detailed map of our refined proposals will be available with our DCO application.

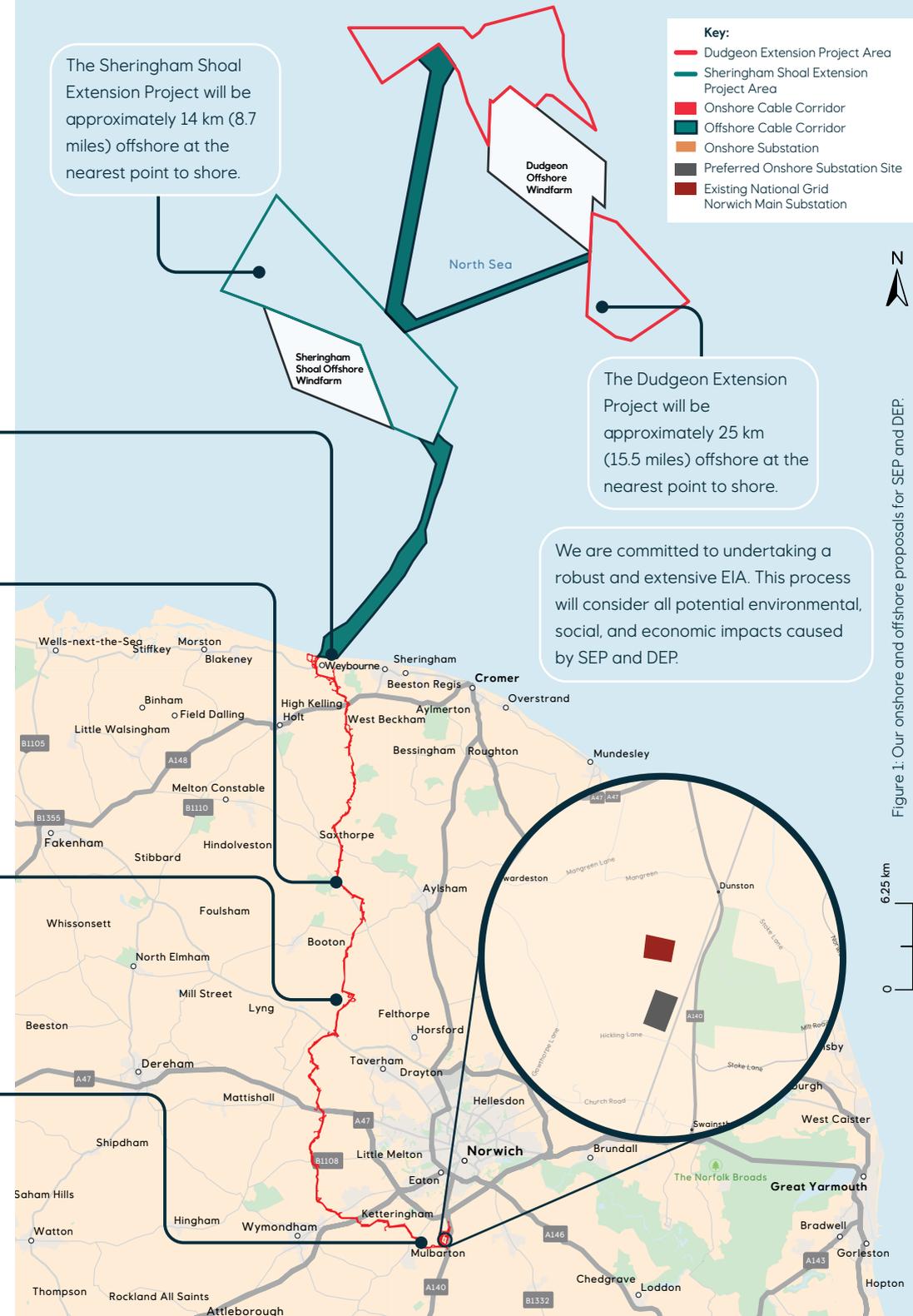


Figure 1: Our onshore and offshore proposals for SEP and DEP.

Landfall

At the phase two consultation we presented a preferred landfall location to the west of Weybourne beach car park at the Muckleburgh Estate.

This location benefits from favourable conditions for horizontal directional drilling to install cable ducts beneath Weybourne beach, minimising disruption to the shoreline. Environmental surveys and engagement with the landowner have since allowed us to refine the landfall area significantly.

Firstly, the landfall compound has been positioned and reduced in size to minimise impacts to the surrounding habitat. This has been informed by a range of surveys including a national vegetation survey, alongside surveys for reptiles and invertebrates. We have also identified vehicle access routes and space for cable duct preparation that makes use of existing access tracks within the Muckleburgh Estate.

To find out more about how we selected the Muckleburgh Estate as the preferred landfall location, please view our previous updates in our documents library on our consultation website: [Sepanddep.commonplace.is](https://www.sepanddep.com/consultation).

Since our phase two consultation we have also refined the onshore cable corridor at Weybourne Woods. During our phase two consultation we were considering a number of options to route the cables across this sensitive area.

Based on results from ground investigations carried out late summer 2021, we have confirmed the feasibility of a horizontal directional drill beneath Weybourne Woods.

The horizontal directional drill will be undertaken in two parts, each approximately 400 metres in length. The midway point (400 metres into Weybourne Woods) has been the subject of an arboricultural survey, which has been used to locate a drilling compound within an existing gap in the wood. The surveys have indicated a low density of trees with limited ecological value in this area. We are also exploring long-term opportunities to create an alternative mitigation habitat within this area that will improve species and structural diversity.

The preferred route was selected over the other options because:

- It avoids using open cut installation requiring an extended closure of Sandy Hill Lane.
- It avoids an open cut installation through the woodland resulting in more widespread tree loss and a greater impact to ecological receptors and recreational use.
- It is the most direct and shortest distance, minimising the overall footprint and number of receptors that will be impacted.
- It is technically feasible while maximising the distance to the nearest receptors.

Figure 2: SEP and DEP onshore cable corridor from Weybourne to Bodham.



Onshore substation and access

Equinor has been offered a grid connection at Norwich Main Substation by National Grid.

The site selection process for the onshore substation began with a three kilometre (km) search area from the existing Norwich Main Substation, which was presented in our October 2019 Scoping Report. Following a comparative assessment of a total of 17 options, the process identified five shortlisted fields for the onshore substation area, as shown in Figure 3. These fields were presented during our phase one consultation during July and August 2020

In response to your phase one consultation feedback, and further environmental and technical assessments, we selected two preferred site options for the location of the onshore substation area, as shown in Figure 4.

We have now selected our preferred onshore substation site, presented as Site 1 during phase two consultation, as shown in Figure 5. This site was selected because:

- There is existing screening from mature trees and woodland that effectively enclose the site, resulting in no clear views to the substation from nearby residential areas.
- It is sited closest to existing industrial landscape features, and at a natural low point within the landscape, reducing visual impact to the Tas Valley.
- It has the fewest residential properties located in proximity, and any potential operational noise impacts to residential properties can be mitigated.
- It avoids sites that are likely to be of high potential for archaeology.
- There was a slight preference for this site from community feedback.

Onshore substation access remains an important consideration in the refinement of our proposals. Having selected our preferred onshore substation location, we are continuing to refine our substation access options and are having detailed conversations with both Norfolk County Council and National Grid about the proposed access strategy.

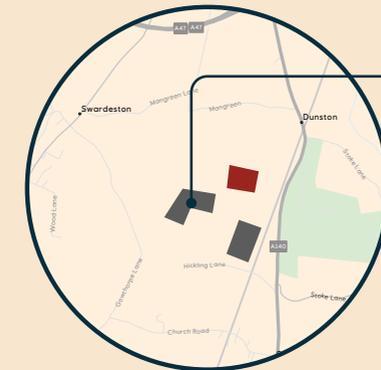
At this stage a decision has been made to access the substation during both construction and operation via the A140. Access will not be taken via the B1113, unless in exceptional circumstances which is in response to feedback received during our phase two consultation.

Key:

- Onshore Substation Site Options
- Existing National Grid Norwich Main Substation
- Phase One Preferred Search Area Zones



Figure 3: Phase one onshore substation search options.



Site 2 - This is made up of a combination of Field 2 and Field 4 from phase one consultation.

Figure 4: Phase two onshore substation search options.



Site 1 - Our preferred onshore substation option.

Figure 5: Preferred substation site option.

Main construction compound

Temporary construction compounds are required to support the onshore cable installation. During phase two consultation we explained that this will include several secondary compounds along the onshore cable corridor, and up to two main compounds for project offices, welfare facilities, staff parking, and material and equipment storage. In addition, the landfall and substation works would have their own dedicated construction compounds.

During our phase two consultation we presented four shortlisted main compound locations. Following feedback from the phase two consultation, engagement with the Local Highways Authority, and discussions with landowners, Equinor has now identified that the preferred main construction compound will be located adjacent to the A1067 (Fakenham Road) near Attlebridge.

The site benefits from being connected to the onshore cable corridor and is adjacent to the A1067, which is a main distributor road. Other key considerations for selecting this site were:

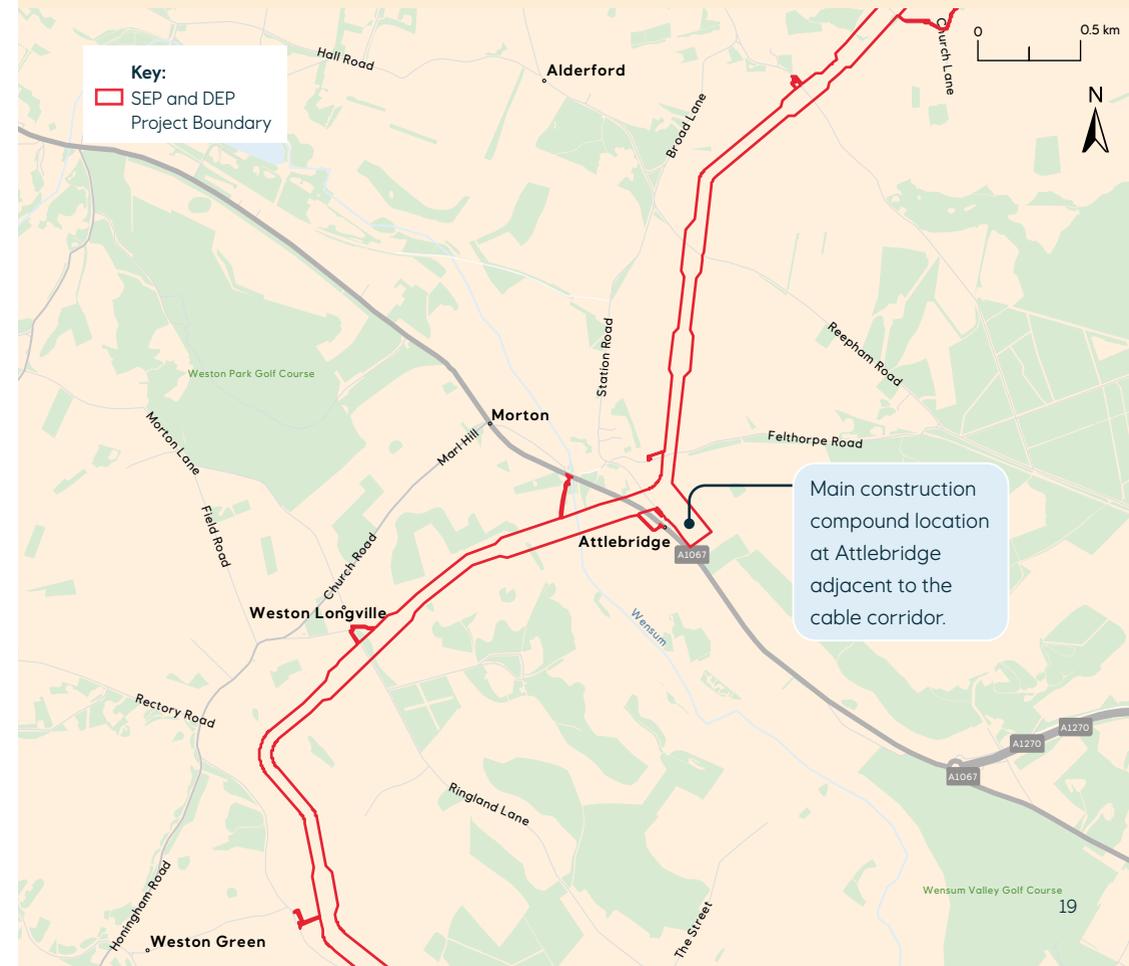
- It has sufficient space to accommodate the entire footprint required.
- There is a good distance of separation to the nearest residential receptors (at least 200 metres).
- The A1067 accommodates significant industrial development (between Attlebridge and Lenwade) and associated HGV traffic.
- The A1067 provides a key link to the main east west A1270 (Norwich Northern Distributor) and onwards links to the main north south A140.
- The A1067 would provide a direct link to the planned Norwich Western Link road.
- The location facilitates direct access to the A1067, minimising construction traffic movements through local communities.
- Norfolk County Council has provided in principle support (subject to detailed access design) to an access for this compound.
- No significant road safety concerns were identified at the junction of the A1067 and Old Fakenham Road.

A report outlining the full site selection process for the main compound has been updated to explain all the factors leading to the identification of the preferred compound location, including the reasons for discounting the alternative options.

In addition to the main compound site selection report, we have also prepared a document which sets out the potential environmental impacts associated with the preferred compound location. It also sets out how the compound will be accessed by construction vehicles, including measures to control and enforce the routing of construction vehicles and measures to enhance road safety.

The preferred compound location will now be taken forward for detailed assessment as part of the DCO application.

Figure 6: SEP and DEP onshore cable corridor and main construction compound location.



Offshore proposals

SEP and DEP will be located approximately 14 kilometres (8.7 miles) and 25 kilometres (15.5 miles) offshore at the nearest point to shore, respectively.

At phase two consultation, we outlined that we are investigating offshore generating areas of up to 196 kilometres squared in total, where 30 to 56 turbines could be located. Each offshore turbine could be between 14 and 26 megawatts (MW) in capacity and be between 246 and 330 metres in height.

In response to feedback received from phase two consultation, and in discussion with technical stakeholders through ongoing environmental technical group meetings, we are continuing to refine and assess our offshore proposals.

Ornithological impacts associated with SEP and DEP will be an important consideration and additional analysis on seabird species is being undertaken as we refine our proposals.

We are engaging with technical stakeholders, including Natural England and the RSPB, as part of our ongoing discussions on mitigation and in principle compensatory measures.

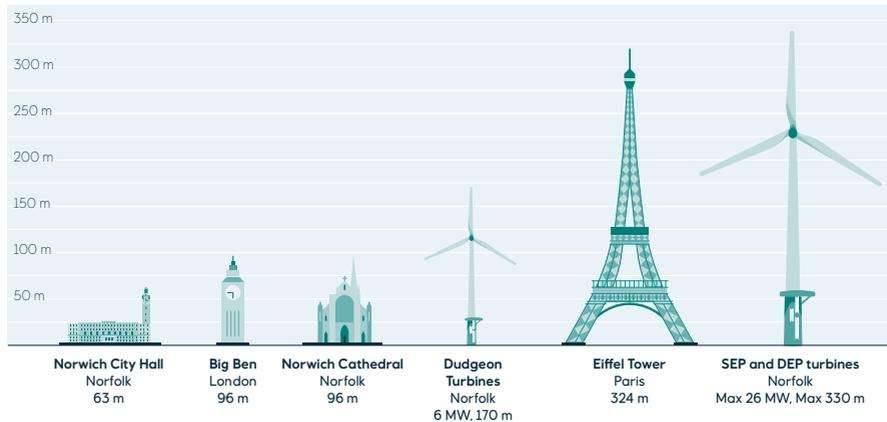


Figure 7: Map of offshore proposals for SEP and DEP

What's Next?

Over the coming months, we will continue to refine our proposals ahead of our DCO application submission. We have taken the decision to extend our DCO application submission to the second quarter of 2022. This extension allows us time to further develop proposals, and allows additional engagement on impacts to seabird species with Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies and other stakeholders, in case environmental mitigation and ornithology compensatory measures are required.

Additionally, we will be undertaking further targeted consultation with affected landowners on our main construction compound early next year and will be contacting relevant landowners to receive their feedback on our refined proposals for the main construction compound.

In the meantime, we will be continuing engagement with all stakeholders, including parish, district and county councillors.

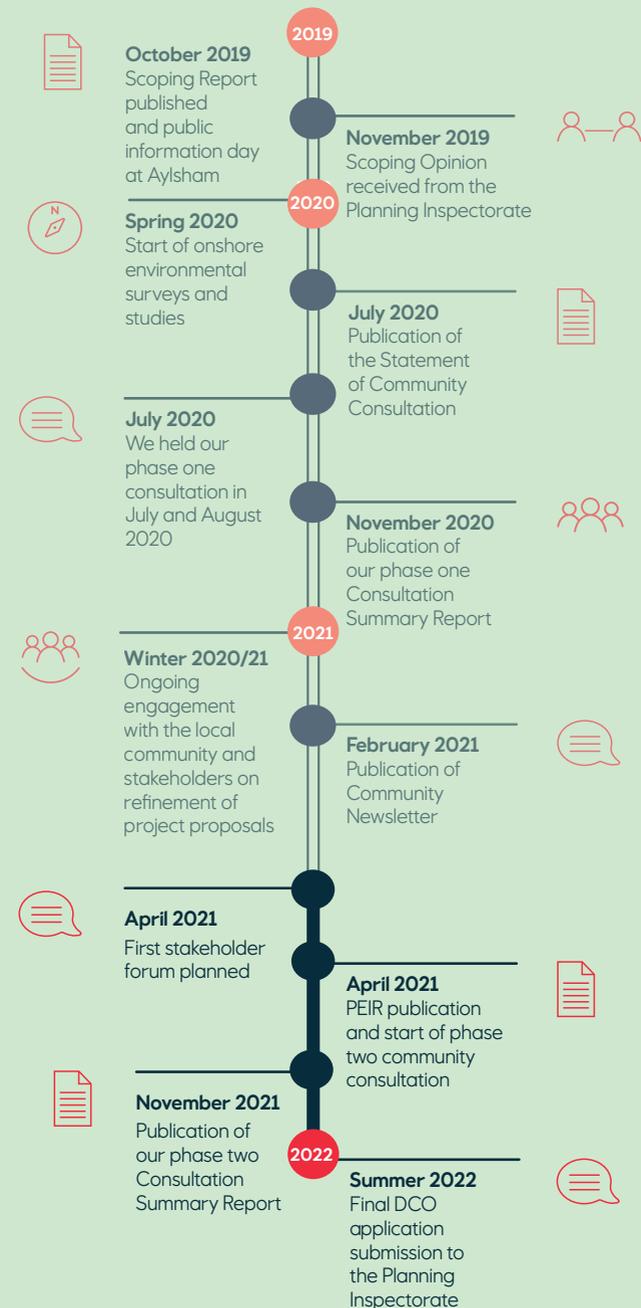
You can sign up to receive project news via our digital engagement platform (sepanddp.commonplace.is/news) or communications channels, as listed on the back of this leaflet.

Public Information Days

During our phase two consultation, feedback highlighted the additional value of coming to Norfolk to meet you in person, depending on the COVID situation. We hope the extension to our DCO application submission also allows us extra time to come and meet you in person and hold more public information days, subject to any evolving COVID guidelines. We will advertise this in local media and online via our mailing list.

Our information events will be an opportunity to view our refined proposals and we encourage anyone with an interest in these proposals to come along.

We hope to host public information days in early 2022. Further details will be provided nearer to the time.



Contact us

You can get in touch with our community relations team at any time by any of the methods below:



Send us an email: info@sepanddep.co.uk



Call our Freephone information line: 08081 963 673



Visit our website: sepanddep.commonplace.is



Visit our virtual exhibition: event.sepanddep.co.uk



Send us a letter: FREEPOST DUDGEON AND SHERINGHAM EXT

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