

Sheringham Shoal

by Scira Offshore Energy

September 2013

“How did I get into Engineering?” Andrew Saunders

• What attracted you to engineering initially?

I've always loved to find out how things work by taking them apart, and if broken trying to fix them. When I was younger, I always had a few remote control cars in various pieces, trying to make them faster and more indestructible! I'm a really practical person so engineering was a natural discipline for me to get into, especially as I could not see myself sitting working at a desk all the time.

• How did you get started in engineering?

Throughout school I enjoyed Maths and Physics which gave me a solid base to study engineering. Combined with building, fixing and modifying things at home, school and at work – engineering was the one for me!

• What subjects did you like at school?

I really enjoyed design technology at school – going off planning, designing and then building things. I also liked the mechanics side of maths and physics as I liked working on practical experiments.

• What did you study at higher education?

At University I studied Electronic Engineering, followed by an in MSc Energy and Sustainability: Renewable Energy and Climate Change.

• What does your job involve?

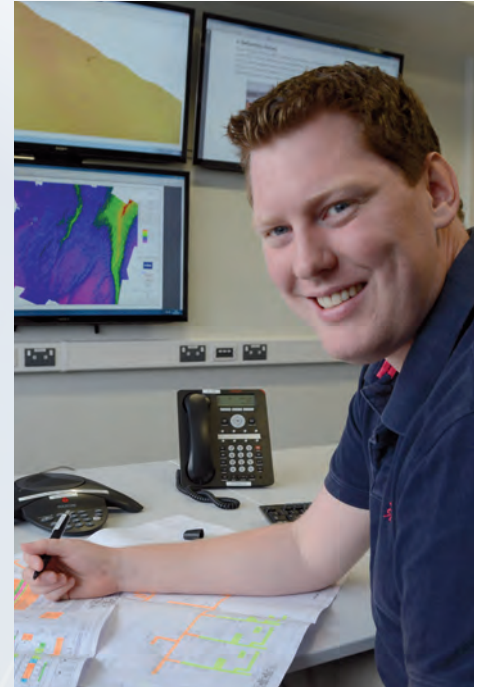
I work as part of a team that looks after the entire wind farm and associated electrical substations and cables both onshore and offshore, trying to maximise the amount of time they are available to produce energy and extend the lifespan of our equipment.

• What do you like most about your job?

I like the varied nature of my job, I can come into the office one morning and something will have happened overnight that requires my attention that forces me to constantly adapt my work plans! I also very much enjoy the opportunities I have to leave the office, travelling out to the wind farm with our experienced engineers and learning from them.

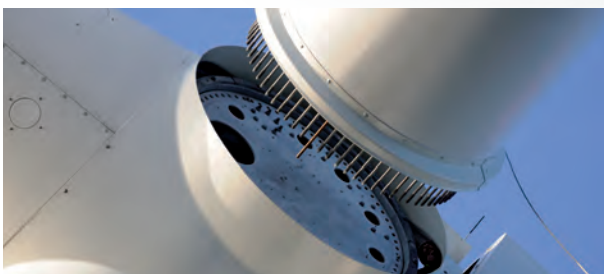
• What advice would you give to a student thinking of engineering as a career?

My best advice is to develop yourself as a person by getting involved in sports



Engineer Andrew Saunders at his desk at Wind Farm Place, the O&M base for Sheringham Shoal.

teams, clubs, volunteering and setting yourself practical projects to complete for fun. This makes you a much more rounded (and employable!) person than one who just studies. Obviously the studying part is important too; don't underestimate the knowledge your teachers and lecturers have; go and speak to them during/after class and ask questions.



Installation of turbine blade at Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm.

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is located 20km north of Sheringham, off the North Norfolk coast. Comprising 88 turbines, 2 offshore substations and one onshore substation, the plant will produce enough electricity to power up to 220,000 British homes every year. The Sheringham Shoal Wind Farm has created exciting new job opportunities for people living in Norfolk, and the team is based at new purpose built offices just south of Wells-next-the-Sea.

Contact details and more information

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm is owned equally by Statoil and Statkraft through the joint venture company, Scira Offshore Energy Limited, the wind farm operator.

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“How did I get into Engineering?” Harriet Green

• What attracted you to engineering initially?

Growing up I always had an interest in how and why things worked in a certain way. I was intrigued by even small and mundane objects such as how corkscrews work to pull a cork out of a bottle, up to the seemingly impossible feat of how an aeroplane stays in the air.

• How did you get started in engineering?

I always had an interest in Science and Maths and during my A-Levels I participated in a team project run by the EDT as part of their Engineering Education Scheme, working with engineers from BP to solve a real life engineering problem. I also spent a week on the EDT Headstart programme which is run at universities all around the country and gives year 12 students the chance to experience what a career in engineering might involve.

• What subjects did you like at school?

I liked the Sciences and Maths but I also liked English and had an interest in Sport Science, especially Sport Psychology and Physiology.

• What did you study at higher education?

I studied at the University of Manchester for a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering with Management and went on to do a Master's degree in Renewable Energy Systems Engineering at the University of Surrey.

• What does your job involve?

My job involves many different tasks that you might expect working for a wind farm operator, from monitoring turbine performance and progress of maintenance and repair activities through interfacing with contractors, to co-ordinating projects for making improvements and modifications to our current systems and procedures. My work is predominantly office based but I have the opportunity to spend time both in the office and out on the wind farm.

• What do you like most about your job?

I like the variety and responsibility that I have from day to day and the exposure I have to different parts of the business. I also like that my job allows me to interact with many



Engineer Harriet Green.

different groups of people with different backgrounds and skill sets from various management levels.

• What advice would you give to a student thinking of engineering as a career?

My advice to any student thinking of engineering as a career is to persevere. It takes a lot of hard work but when you get your first opportunity to work in an industry you find interesting and exciting it's definitely worth it!



Mechanical Engineers Colin Galer and Harriet Green with O&M Manager Arid Soleim.

Each of the 88 turbines on the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm stands 132 metres high; the same height as the London Eye. The turbines have three blades mounted on a nacelle that houses the generator, gearbox, controller, shaft and other components. The nacelle is mounted on an 80m tapered tubular tower with an internal lift enabling technicians easy access to the main workings. In this photo you can see Harriet standing on top of the nacelle of a turbine, with the turbine blades clearly visible behind.

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