

Scira Community News

for North Norfolk and Broadland

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Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm receives consent

The 315MW Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, located between 17km and 23km offshore from the North Norfolk coastal town of Sheringham, has received consent from the UK Government Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).

This consent, known as Section 36, means the developer, joint-venture company Scira Offshore Energy Ltd, is a step closer to constructing the wind farm on the 35 km² site in the Greater Wash. It is now just awaiting the investment decision from its majority-owner, StatoilHydro.

Anne S. Lycke, Head of Wind Energy at StatoilHydro and Chairman of Scira said, "This consent is a major progression for the project and shows that the UK Government is committed to its target of producing 15% of its energy from renewables by 2020."

Scira Offshore Energy is 45% owned by Dutch company Evelop and 55% owned by StatoilHydro, the international energy company. The StatoilHydro management board will make the final investment decision on the project, which will cost in excess of £750 million, towards the end of this year. If sanctioned, construction will begin in 2009 with the wind farm being operational by the end of 2011.

The proposed wind farm will consist of 88 turbines with an annual electricity production of around 1.1TWh, which is enough energy to power almost 220,000 Norfolk homes. Over its 40-year lifetime, the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm will contribute to a reduction of many thousands of tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

This offshore consent accompanies the Town & Country Planning Act Approvals granted for the onshore cable route by both the North Norfolk and Broadland District Councils (story page 3)



Installation of an offshore wind turbine

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The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm

Wind farm facts and figures

The site of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm was awarded during the Round II allocation in 2004. It was chosen because it:

- lies within a government approved area for development
- enjoys high wind speeds
- has favourable water depths
- has relatively low levels of fishing activity
- affords good access
- has grid connection options, and
- is outside protected and scientifically designated areas

The wind farm will consist of 88 turbines [3.6MW] that will be positioned less than a km apart and supported by foundations secured to the seabed. The turbines will be connected via a network of cables that link two offshore transformer stations erected within the wind farm. From these stations, power will be exported via two 132kV marine cables that will come to shore near Weybourne. A 21.6km underground cable will be built to connect the wind farm to the electricity grid at a new substation inland near Cawston.

Timetable for financial approval and construction

While the offshore component of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm has recently received Section 36 consent from the UK Government, the project also needs internal financial approval from the project owners, StatoilHydro. An investment decision is anticipated towards the end of the year.



Weybourne Hope, where the windfarm cable will make landfall

Contracts are now being provisionally awarded to suppliers, including a £19 million contract to Nexans for the manufacture and supply of the power cables which will connect the wind farm to the mainland.

Assuming financial sanction is achieved, the construction timetable will be:

3Q 2009	Start onshore installation
1Q 2010	Start offshore installation
2Q 2011	Start installation of turbines
4Q 2011	Ready for operation

Connecting to the electricity grid



The agreed cable route from Weybourne to Salle

Scira has now received the three planning permissions it needs to construct and operate the onshore electricity connection that would join the wind farm to the power grid.

The latest, and final, onshore planning permission was granted by Broadland District Council in February 2008 and is for the new electricity substation adjacent to an existing facility at Salle, near Cawston.

Earlier this year the first two planning permissions were received from the North Norfolk and Broadland District Councils to construct and operate a 21.6 kilometre underground cable system between a landfall point at Weybourne, on the north Norfolk coast, and the new substation at Salle.

Both councils, in pursuance of their powers under the Town & County Planning Act 1990, granted planning permission in accordance with plans and application forms submitted by Scira Offshore Energy Limited

Each planning permission was granted with a set of standard conditions relating to timing of the work, construction methods and environmental issues.

Fisheries consultation for construction process

Since the outset, Scira has recognised that the sea has a multitude of users and that wind farms must be considered in the context of all users of the sea, including fishermen and their associated industry and activities.

In that context, Scira has acknowledged a willingness to pay genuine fishermen disruption payments throughout the construction period. These disruption payments will be based on realistic and proven loss figures.

Contracts for disruption payments to be made in relation to the construction process have now been signed with most of the fishermen significantly active on the wind farm site. Consultation regarding disruption payments for the remaining fishermen active on the wind farm site are ongoing and will continue in the coming weeks. These consultations will be followed by discussions with the inshore boats likely to be disrupted by the cable laying operation.



Disruption payments will be paid to genuine fishermen during construction

Wells Harbour as an operational base

Wells Harbour is the project's preferred operation and maintenance base following construction; however there are some concerns over access due to tidal restrictions.

In agreement with Scira, the Wells Harbour Commissioners have commissioned a study to determine whether access to the Harbour could be extended, which could make it an attractive option for boats to take crews and light equipment out to the wind farm.



Wells Beach, at the mouth of the Harbour



Fences will be erected to protect breeding pairs of ringed plovers. Photo © Martin Perrow

Ring fencing the ringed plovers

Three small areas near to where the wind farm offshore cable lands at Weybourne Hope will be fenced off to provide protection for a small population of ringed plovers found to breed there.

Ornithological studies of the export cable landfall site at Weybourne Hope showed that four pairs of ringed plover use this area for breeding and the RSPB has stated that the birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season.

The RSPB will work with Scira to identify the areas to be protected, and will advise on the appropriate material and specific detail for the protective cordons.

As well as protecting the birds from disturbance during construction, these fences will also help isolate the birds from people, dogs and other potential threats.

MOD lifts wind farm objection with conditions

The final objection to the wind farm proposal came from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) who objected due to the effect the installed turbines would have on the performance of the defence radar at Trimingham. This objection has been lifted following constructive work and negotiations between Scira, key MoD officials, and engineers from BAE Systems. The conditions for the consent will be met by a modification of the radar. The parties are aiming for an agreement on the necessary modification work this month, and the modification will be implemented and operational before the towers on the wind farm are erected in 2011.

Questions from local people

Representatives from Scira Offshore Energy have recently visited Norfolk to meet with local people and give presentations to Chambers of Trade. At these meetings many similar issues have been raised, and answers to some of the most commonly asked questions now follow:

How many people will be employed in the local area during construction, and in the longer term?

Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm will provide many opportunities to boost the local Norfolk economy - through the provision of jobs, the purchase of goods and services and possible ongoing tourism impacts. There will be local opportunities both during construction and in the longer term in relation to operation and maintenance of the wind farm. However, at this stage it is too early to give exact employment or economic figures.

How can local businesses get involved?

Scira will facilitate opportunities for local suppliers to meet with contractors and offer their services. Work is underway on a Suppliers Directory of local North Norfolk businesses interested in providing their services to the project's contractors. This will include services from electricians and real estate agents to B&B owners and hire equipment companies. Production of the directory will be managed through the North Norfolk Business Forum (NNBF) and for further details please contact info@nnbf.org or telephone them on 01263 510709.

As well, a Supplier Conference and Seminar is planned for later this year, depending on the outcome of the StatoilHydro financial decision.

Will Scira have any involvement with the local community?

The wind farm will be part of the local community for many years so the company will be keen to contribute or play an active role in community-based related projects likely to be of lasting benefit.

What happens at the end of the wind farm's lifespan?

As part of the consent, it is agreed that the project owner will remove the wind turbines and all associated equipment at the end of the wind farm's lifespan.

If you have questions about the project you would like answered in the next newsletter please email info@scira.co.uk.

Key project people

The Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm project has welcomed a new Project Director to head the wind farm team. He is Rune Rønvik and he takes over from Bjorn Drangsholt.



Rune Rønvik



Kari Hege Mørk

There have been several new additions to the project team including Stakeholder Manager, Kari Hege Mørk who will work with project stakeholders to ensure key issues are addressed.

Contact for Fishermen

Richard Norman, who is well known to the North Norfolk fishing community and has

been with the project since it began, has been re-appointed as the Fishing Liaison Officer. In this role he will deal with all fishing consultations including assisting with negotiations associated with disruption payments. He can be contacted via email: rcnorman@madasafish.com or on mobile: 07771 532801.



Richard Norman

Contact for Landowners

There are plans to appoint a Landowner Liaison Officer to monitor contractors' work and liaise with landowners on related issues. The phone number and other contact details will be available to all landowners as soon as the appointment has been finalised.

If you would like to receive future copies of this newsletter by email or post, please send your details to info@scira.co.uk

Scira Offshore Energy ownership

Scira Offshore Energy Limited is a project-specific company owned by Norwegian-based StatoilHydro and Dutch company Evelop.

The project is being led by StatoilHydro and if sanctioned, it will be the most significant wind farm project in StatoilHydro's portfolio, as well as its first offshore wind farm.

StatoilHydro is an international energy company primarily focused on upstream oil and gas operations, with headquarters in Norway. The company is also focusing on developing a new

energy business primarily within wind and offshore renewables, sustainable biofuels and carbon management. For more information please visit www.statoilhydro.com.

Evelop is part of Econcern, a company whose stated mission is "a sustainable energy supply for everyone". Econcern is amongst the world's leading sustainable-energy project developers and has one of the largest portfolios of renewable energy assets worldwide. For more information please visit www.evelop.com.

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