

Offshore Wind Farms

Be prepared to be blown away by Windscape at Sheringham Museum!

Windscape is the newly refurbished Visitor Centre for the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, both operated by energy company Equinor.

Located in the iconic building known locally as The Mo on Sheringham's East Promenade, the Visitor Centre first opened in 2011, since when it has established itself as an important Norfolk community asset, both as a visitor attraction and a learning centre.

Sophie Skipp, Equinor's Norfolk Stakeholder Manager who has been closely involved in the design of Windscape, said:

"Windscape's new information and activity zones take visitors on an exciting journey of discovery into offshore wind energy designed to help visitors understand the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

"We have introduced more interactives to provide details and up-to-the-minute information about what they can see out at sea from the windows of Sheringham Museum, whilst ensuring there are elements of the exhibit for all the family.



"The exhibit is not just about the telling of the story of these wind farms and the positive impact they have had on our community; it's also an opportunity for visitors to better understand our work, including the wide range and breadth of careers they can aspire to."

On clear days powerful telescopes and binoculars make Windscape the best place in Norfolk to look out across the North Sea to both wind farms, with the possibility of

spotting the Esvagt Njord, the large red service operations vessel (SOV) supporting the maintenance of both offshore wind farms.

Although there is an admission charge to Sheringham Museum (www.sheringhammuseum.co.uk), Windscape is free to enter and is open from 10:00am – 4:30pm Monday to Saturday, closed on Sundays ☐

Contents

2. | SEP & DEP... maturing plans
| It's not just about engineering!

3. | Supporting the Norfolk supply chain
| Apprenticeships: looking to the future
| From the Norfolk Stakeholder Manager's diary

4. | Community Funds Update
| Increased funding for North Norfolk Community Projects
| Food Scientists to the Rescue!
| Contact details

Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Projects... maturing plans

Work is continuing to mature the detailed construction and operational plans for the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects (SEP and DEP), which were granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2024.

By 2030 Equinor is expecting its UK offshore wind farms to power nearly 7 million UK homes, 1.5million of which will be accounted for by the output of the existing operational Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon projects combined with SEP and DEP.



The route of the onshore cable corridor through Norfolk



A geophysical survey



Archaeological trenching and excavation investigations

Following the completion of walk-over metal detecting and geophysical surveys last year, there will be some further archaeological investigation activity along the route of the proposed SEP and DEP onshore cable corridor through Norfolk during 2025.

Geophysical surveys allow archaeologists to ‘see beneath the soil’ without disturbing the ground and, following a review of those surveys, some investigations through trenching and excavation are now required at a number of locations.

The timing of these investigations has been agreed with individual farmers and landowners, and Parish Councils in the areas where the investigations are to take place will once again receive advance notice of these activities.

If any of the Town and Parish Councils along the SEP and DEP onshore cable corridor in North Norfolk, Broadland and South Norfolk would like the Stakeholder and Community Liaison team to attend one of their meetings to give a short presentation, followed by a Q&A session, please email: gm_sepdep@equinor.com

It’s not just about engineering!

A recent project to stimulate awareness of career options in the offshore wind industry was undertaken with students at University Technical College Norfolk (UTCN) for six weeks during the 2025 Spring Term.

Working in teams, biology and engineering students, between 16- 18 years of age, were tasked with designing an artificial reef which could be placed in the sea to promote biodiversity around the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms.

Using only recycled materials, each team was required to create a model of their reef, as well as preparing a detailed end of project submission which included answering a series of searching questions to explain the thinking behind their design.



UTCN project winners visiting Great Yarmouth O&M Hub

Welcoming the winners to Equinor’s Greater Wash Operations and Maintenance Hub in Great Yarmouth, Sophie Skipp commented:

“I believe the project was a great way to demonstrate that the offshore wind industry offers a diverse range of career options – it’s not just about engineering!”

Supporting the Norfolk supply chain

It is over 13 years since the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm was fully commissioned.

Since then Equinor, as the operator of both the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, has established strong working relationships with many companies in the local Norfolk supply chain.

One such company is Stowen Group, based in Great Yarmouth, which first worked with Equinor in 2016 and is currently delivering a ‘milestone’ offshore modification



Offshore work by Stowen Group. Image courtesy of Stowen

and maintenance project, whilst also providing onshore fabrication.

“Locally this work provides companies like us with a boost to further invest in building our business to support the sector”, said Kieron Ford, Managing Director of renewables at Stowen Group

Apprenticeships: looking to the future

Apprenticeships have a major part to play in building the clean energy future workforce.

Jai Gatie and Lewis Jones started their Level 3 maintenance and operations engineering technician apprenticeships with the Sheringham Shoal and



Jai Gatie looking out to the wind farms

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms in late 2024. Having shadowed senior engineers and planners for three months, they are currently undergoing intensive training at Swarm REAGIT in Norwich, learning important skills related to welding, fabrication and electrical installation.

Lewis feels that with an apprenticeship the sky’s the limit, saying: “You can really go far with one. Our managers were once apprentices. Now they are running the wind farms! It’s really inspiring”

From the Norfolk Stakeholder Manager’s Diary



Sophie Skipp at Sheringham Museum

The last six months have been a busy time for Norfolk Stakeholder Manager Sophie Skipp as she now reports:

“Norfolk is a large, diverse county so I am taking time to learn about the communities in which we work. Community life and business activity in Great Yarmouth is very different to living and working in the more rural communities of Breckland and North Norfolk, so it is important that our interactions with these communities recognise those differences.

“Skills development to support the offshore wind industry’s future growth is a key topic of our agenda in Norfolk, and I have been visiting schools and colleges and supporting skills events across the county. Our young people ‘can’t be what they can’t see’, so it is important to make them aware of the many different career opportunities available to them.

“Accompanied by graduate colleague Su Min Park and work experience student Harry Drew-Thompson, I was pleased to be part of the delegation from the East of England’s energy sector that attended a reception at the House of Commons in April. We were all there to showcase the economic benefits of offshore wind in our region..”

Sophie Skipp can be contacted at email: gm_sepdep@equinor.com



Calling government to support the East of England

Offshore Wind Farms

Community Funds Update

Increased funding for North Norfolk community projects



North Norfolk Community Transport's first 'electric' passengers
(Image courtesy of North Norfolk Community Transport)

From 2025 the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm has increased its annual donation to the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund from £100,000 to £150,000.

Announcing the increased donation, Colin Galer, Plant Manager of the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm, said:

"North Norfolk is primarily a rural

district consisting of many small and quite isolated communities. The Fund's support for projects associated with sports facilities, schools, village halls and community centres, marine and beach safety services, local charities and community transport groups make an important contribution to sustaining and enhancing rural life.

"The recent grant to North Norfolk Community Transport

has contributed to the purchase of an electric mini-bus which is providing a much-needed service to many North Norfolk residents who might otherwise be unable to access vital services, such as doctor or hospital appointments."

Since 2010 the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has made grants of over £1.3 million to some 140 local North Norfolk initiatives □

Food Scientists to the Rescue!

A grant from the Dudgeon Community Fund to the 2025 Norwich Science Festival enabled over 6,500 people to attend performances of the play Food Scientists to the Rescue!

This play, teaching about healthy eating and why bees are so important to food production, had a highly



(Image courtesy of Norwich Science Festival and Luke Witcomb)

successful tour of 35 primary schools across Norfolk, before going to the Norwich Science Festival for an 8 day run. After the Science Festival, it played to 5 schools for children with special education needs and disabilities as well as to a number of community groups.

The Dudgeon Community Fund receives an annual donation from the Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm

to support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education projects in Norfolk.

Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm's Plant Manager Chris Hosea believes Food Scientists to the Rescue! is a far-reaching initiative saying:

"I think it is fantastic that this play has delivered learning about food and food science to such a huge number of young people in such an engaging way" □

If your organisation is seeking funding support for a community project or a STEM initiative, visit www.norfolkfoundation.com to learn how to apply for a Sheringham Shoal or Dudgeon Community Fund grant.

Contact details and more information:

The Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms are operated by Equinor from its Greater Wash Operations and Maintenance Hub located at:

50 South Denes Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3PR

+44(0)1493 841700

SHERINGHAM SHOAL & DUDGEON

Offshore Wind Farms

www.sheringhamshoal.co.uk
info@sheringhamshoal.co.uk

www.dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk
info@dudgeonoffshorewind.co.uk

