

Providing renewable energy for over 700,000 UK homes

The teams at Equinor’s O&M (Operations & Maintenance) Hub are responsible for the provision of renewable energy for over 700,000 UK homes; they are led by Plant Managers Colin Galer (Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm) and Chris Hosea (Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm). This is their latest report:



■ Working in the Sheringham Shoal Offshore Wind Farm on a sunny day

“Following on from the 2023 O&M update, there is a lot of good news to report. Our most important assets are our people, and we have had another successful year in terms of health and safety performance without serious incident involving people, assets or the environment.

“Looking out to sea, when the weather allows, you can see the turbines from the North Norfolk coastline. What is difficult to see is the sheer volume of work being performed. Every day there are multiple teams progressing planned and preventative maintenance. Summer campaigns include confined space works in the wind turbine foundations, geotechnical survey scopes and, as the wind farms age, continued main component replacements, requiring specialist vessels and resource.

“In addition, during 2024, Sheringham Shoal has also completed major power outages to perform critical maintenance at the onshore substation in Salle, near Cawston and at both the offshore substations. This project was completed one day ahead of schedule, which involved a big team effort.

“The Equinor O&M facility in Great Yarmouth is home for the Service Operation Vessel, which returns home every two weeks and where the onshore and offshore warehouse team support a 24-hour turnaround. It is also home to the site leadership teams, engineering resource, control

room, safety professionals and many others.”

“Looking to 2025, we have some very exciting news; Equinor will add two O&M Technician Apprentices to the Great Yarmouth team. The two apprentices will complete formal technical training in Norwich and, after about 18 months, will join the rotations offshore. This really is exciting news, and it makes us all proud to continue the Equinor journey in Norfolk, creating opportunities for perspective employees and our supply chain partners” □

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Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Extension Projects... an update

Since the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farm Extension Projects (SEP & DEP) were granted a Development Consent Order (DCO) in April 2024, work has started to discharge the many planning conditions which often come with such Consent Orders. At the same time, the construction and operational

detail is being prepared for a Financial Investment Decision (FID) in due course.



■ The route of the proposed onshore cable corridor through Norfolk

Onshore, the first phase of cable route archaeological surveys has been completed; these have included geophysical surveys, metal detecting and trial trenching. Two further phases of such surveys will follow in the coming months, each phase being aligned with farming activities associated with the land to be surveyed. Parish Councils in the areas where surveys are to take place will be given advance notice of these activities.



■ Recent archaeological survey activities

When constructed, SEP and DEP will generate sufficient energy to power the equivalent of 785,000 UK homes. Combined with the existing operational Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon projects, the wind farms would generate enough energy for over 1.5 million homes □

Project collaboration by Norfolk developers

As many readers are well aware, there are currently two other offshore wind farm infrastructure developments taking place across Norfolk, as well as a major National Highways A47 road improvement programme

Ørsted is installing its onshore cable for the Hornsea 3 Offshore Wind Farm from Weybourne, on the North Norfolk coast, to Swardeston, south of Norwich, whilst RWE's Norfolk Zone

onshore cable corridor stretches from the coastal village of Happisburgh to Necton, near Swaffham.

Although the timing of the onshore works associated with SEP and DEP has yet to be confirmed, it is possible that its construction activities may coincide with one of more of these projects..

Norfolk Stakeholder Manager Sophie Skipp said:

"With these issues in mind, Equinor is continuing to collaborate and work in close co-operation with Ørsted, RWE

and National Highways to ensure that the development of SEP and DEP's construction plans reflect measures which are designed to minimise the combined community disruptive effects of all these infrastructure projects".

She added: *"We were delighted to brief Broadland MP Jerome Mayhew about SEP and DEP, and our collaboration activities, when he visited the Equinor O&M Hub in Great Yarmouth during early October 2024"* □

Meeting the Stakeholder and Community Liaison team

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 project update presentation, followed by a Q&A session, please email a request to info@sepanddep.co.uk □

Equinor donates equipment to James Paget Hospital

Over recent months, the James Paget University Hospital has received support from Equinor by way of donations of equipment no longer needed at the Equinor O&M Hub in Great Yarmouth.

Equinor's Administrative Coordinator Tanya Stedman recently delivered two large-screen TVs to the hospital, having previously organised for hand sanitising stations to be donated to the hospital's Infection Prevention and Control team and large white boards to the Cancer Care Navigator and Ward 12 therapies team.

Anne-Marie Breach, James Paget's Communications & Digital Media Officer, said:

"The TVs are likely to be used on our Ward 18 Discharge Lounge, so patients awaiting discharge will have some entertainment while final preparations are made for their return home."



Tanya Stedman (right) presenting hand sanitising stations at James Paget Hospital

"We'd like to thank Tanya and all of the team at Equinor for their support of our hospital and our patients" □

Coming soon...

Located in the Sheringham Museum, the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms Visitor Centre is being completely refurbished and updated early in the New Year, re-opening in March for the 2025 visitor season.

Since opening in 2011, tourists, educational groups and local residents have made up the 150,000+ visitors welcomed to the Centre.

The theme of the new displays is being kept 'under wraps' until March 2025! □



Sheringham Museum

Welcome.... Sophie Skipp, Norfolk Stakeholder Manager



Coming straight from leading the highly successful Skills for Energy initiative at EEEGR (East of England Energy Group), Sophie Skipp joined Equinor as its Norfolk Stakeholder Manager in July 2024, since when she has represented Equinor and the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms at a wide range of events.

Looking back over the summer months, Sophie said:

"One of the first events I attended in July was the Design and Technology Conference at the University of East Anglia. Attended by teachers from around the country, it's aim was to help teachers and educators invigorate STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) education through a series of speeches, presentations and workshop sessions."



(Image courtesy of The Inspiration Trust)

"Greenpower Education Trust is a UK charity which uses the excitement of motor sport to enthuse young people about STEM by challenging them to design, build and race a single seat electric car. It does this by supplying age-appropriate kit cars which are built in schools and raced at Greenpower organised events at motorsport venues around the UK, and on 22nd September it was great to watch school teams from across Norfolk in action on the Lotus test track at Hethel."

"Both these events were supported by a grant from the Dudgeon Community Fund's STEM Programme."

Sophie Skipp will be sharing extracts from her diary in future editions of this newsletter. She can be contacted at sops@equinor.com □

Community Funds Update

Enhancing lifeboat launch and recovery

A grant from the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund has enabled the Sea Palling Independent lifeboat Station in North Norfolk to acquire an Argocat all-terrain amphibious rescue vehicle

The Argocat is a multi-wheeled vehicle which can work on the sand and in the surf, and is thus able to tow the inshore lifeboat during launch and recovery. It can also transport crew and equipment and, in the Responder version, can accommodate a full-sized stretcher with the facility for a lifeboat crew member to continue casualty first aid on the move.

Sea Palling's Argocat has been modified to include roof top stretcher storage, additional lighting, a comprehensive first aid kit and VHF radio.



■ Sea Palling's Argocat (Image courtesy of Chris Ball)

"What a game changer this has proven to be", says Chris Ball, Vice Chairman of the Sea Palling Lifeboat.

"The safety of those using our seas and beaches, and the brave volunteers seeking to protect them, is one of the reasons that the marine environment and marine safety is a key criteria of the Sheringham Shoal Community Fund," says Norfolk Stakeholder Manager Sophie Skipp □

Grant for careers summer school

With the support of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) grant from the Dudgeon Community Fund, East Coast College in Great Yarmouth was able to run a careers summer school during August 2024 for school students in years 9-10 and year 11 school leavers.

Rachel Bunn, STEM lead at East Coast College, is pleased with the success of this new initiative, saying:

"The project was designed for students uncertain about their future career paths after GCSEs. Each session was tailored to students' interests, with a focus on industries such as energy and engineering.

"Welding, civil engineering, offshore wind, emergency services and archaeology were amongst students' key interests, and they appreciated having representatives from local employers on hand to provide the interface to real jobs and careers" □

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:

Equinor is the operator of both the Sheringham Shoal and Dudgeon Offshore Wind Farms, and the Operations and Maintenance base for each wind farm is located at:
50 South Denes Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 3PR | +44(0)1493 841700

Sheringham Shoal is owned by Equinor, Equitix and Green Investment Group through Scira Offshore Energy Limited.

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Dudgeon is owned by Equinor, Masdar and China Resources through Dudgeon Offshore Wind Limited.

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